





## Palestinians are ready for tough Jerusalem battle

**OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP)** — Palestinians are busy preparing strategy for a tough battle over sovereignty of east Jerusalem in advance of negotiations with Israel on the Holy City's future.

Well before the formal negotiations begin in May, Israeli and Palestinian academics have been conferring informally outside the region in sessions where they presented their visions of the city's future.

The Palestinians are calling for a sovereign and independent state with its capital in East Jerusalem — the half of the city Israel "annexed" after the 1967 Middle East war and declared part of its "eternal, undivided capital."

A group of Israeli academics last week called during a conference held in Jerusalem for retaining arrangements in the city as they have existed for the last twenty-nine years.

Palestinian counterparts do not agree. "Jerusalem must be the capital for both parties and the basis for this is the U.N. partition resolution of 1947," Ali Jarbawi, a political scientist at Bir Zeit University, said.

"We should have our section and they should have their section," he said. The U.N. resolution called for Jewish and Arab states to be created side by side in Palestine and for Jerusalem to be an international city. "You cannot accept that Jerusalem will be under Israeli sovereignty, rather it must be under shared sovereignty, Palestinian on the Palestinian side and Israeli on the Israeli side," Mr. Jarbawi said.

The Jerusalem issue constitutes a rare point of agreement for all the Palestinian factions, both those opposed to the peace process and those supporting it.

This consensus is apparent in the "Jerusalem Arab Council," which includes representatives of all the factions, secular and Islamic, plus Christian and Muslim clerics and academics.

It was founded in 1994 and is headed by Faisal Hussein, who has played a key role in Jerusalem issues for the Palestinian National Authority of Yasser Arafat.

According to a member who requested anonymity, the council "discusses all the matters related to the development of the Jerusalem issue and its future."

It is widely expected that the talks on Jerusalem will be among the most complicated and difficult of all the issues to be dealt with in "final status" negotiations due to begin in May between Israel and the newly-elected Palestinian self-rule government.

Hanan Ashrawi, a member of the elected legislative council, said Israel "has done to Jerusalem a historic injustice that needs to be corrected."

"The question is not merely one of confidence building. It needs a resolution," she said. In an effort to help find a solution, the U.N. plans host an international conference on the future of Jerusalem in Paris March 15-17.

Palestinians also issued a public appeal Tuesday for land claims to former Arab areas that make up much of what is now the Jewish west side of the holy city. "Attention all Palestinians who own property in the western part of Jerusalem," began the written appeal issued by the Palestinian Land and Water Establishment (LAWE).

The statement called on Palestinians whose property "was confiscated during or after the war of 1948" to contact the LAWE "to ensure that either restitution of property and/or fair compensation remains on the agenda during final status negotiations" with Israel on the future of the Palestinian territories.

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## Lebanese panel alleges abuses of human rights

**BEIRUT (R)** — Police torture of suspects is widespread in Lebanon and has caused death on more than one occasion, the Lebanese Human Rights Association said in a report published on Tuesday.

"There are many complaints from citizens subjected during arrest in police stations to various types of coercion and torture," the report said as parliament's human rights commission met to discuss similar charges made by two deputies last week.

The Human Rights Association delivered the report on Monday to Beshara Merhej, chairman of the parliamentary human rights commission. It was published in Beirut newspapers on Tuesday.

"The courts hear many cases of suspects telling of acts of violence they undergo during detention which show clearly on their bodies and whose authenticity they check with medical examiners," the report said.

"The acts of torture have led in more than one case to death, which was announced publicly," the report added without citing examples. "These practices are repeated from one time to another... and hurt Lebanon's reputation," the report added.

It urged the commission to open an inquiry, especially into allegations made by two deputies during last week's stormy budget debate.

Christian Deputy Nasri Maalouf accused police, security agencies and investigative authorities during the debate of beating and torturing suspects and committing other human rights violations.

He called for an end to violence against suspects in pre-trial detention and urged the closure of police stations where suspects were tortured. Mr. Maalouf named one as Hbeish police station in west Beirut.

He demanded that parliament pass a law that suspects must be accompanied by a lawyer during initial police interrogations.

Druze Deputy Issam Nouman also told parliament during the debate that Lebanon had a shameful human rights record and serious breaches were committed against suspects under interrogation.

Suspects were subjected to "pressure, torture, humiliation and unjustified long detention periods," he told parliament.

Stolen Greek artefacts are sent back to Athens

**ATHENS (AFP)** — Around 300 stolen ancient artefacts, dating back more than 3,000 years to the Mycenaean period, were returned to Greece Monday following a court battle in the United States, said the Greek Foreign Ministry.

However, the archeologist responsible for the treasures, Kalopi Krystalli-Votsi, says the precious collection "was much larger" before the theft in 1987, and has launched an appeal to recuperate the missing items.

The "Nightingale treasure," made up of 312 rings and bracelets in gold and semi-precious stone as well as antique coins, was stolen from the former Peloponnesian Aionida (nightingale) cemetery near Nemea in the country's south.

A group of unknown thieves raided the excavation site before it was officially opened to archeologists.

The treasure was rediscovered by chance on the sales catalogue of the Michael Ward Gallery in New York in 1993.

Greek authorities, aided by Greek and Greek-American archeologists, subsequently mounted a court challenge to recover the artifacts.

The return of the jewels by U.S. authorities was marked by an official ceremony.

## U.S. evacuation from Sudan is connected to Abdul Rahman trial

**WASHINGTON (AFP)** — Two weeks after a New York court handed down a life sentence to Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman for terrorism, the United States announced its diplomats were no longer safe in Sudan and ordered them out.

U.S. officials admit the outcome of what became known as the biggest terrorism trial in U.S. history was one of many considerations in the decision.

But terrorism experts maintain fear of reprisals from forces loyal to Sheikh Abdul Rahman may have been the overriding concern in the move to shut down the embassy and repatriate the 25 staff members.

"U.S. diplomats in Sudan were vulnerable (to attacks) and operated in an unsympathetic environment," says Bernard Reich, a specialist on Middle East terrorism.

"The Sheikh's followers could have well seized the opportunity to take revenge on American targets," he said.

Sheikh Abdul Rahman, found guilty along with nine others of conspiring to wage a campaign of terrorism against New York City landmarks, entered the United States in July 1990 from Sudan.

He was also linked to the February 1993 bombing of the World Trade Centre, which killed six and injured some 1,000 people but he was not charged with any wrongdoing in that crime.

The blind Egyptian cleric, who inspired his followers to attack the United States for its pro-Israel policy, was also found guilty of plotting to assassinate Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak during a visit to New York that was later cancelled.

In a resolution adopted Wednesday, the same day the United States ordered its diplomats home from Khartoum, the United Nations called on Sudan to cease supporting "terrorism" activities and hand over three Islamic militants wanted in connection with last June's assassination attempt against Mr. Mubarak in Addis Ababa.

An administration official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said fear of reprisals from Sheikh Abdul Rahman's followers was "part of the big puzzle."

But the official cautioned that over the past months there had been an increasing number of disturbing reports about "terrorist activities" in Sudan that prompted action on the part of the U.S. administration.

The United States has accused Sudan of providing safe havens for groups who operate training camps in the west African country with links to Libya and Iran.

In 1993, the administration, under pressure from the U.S. Congress, added Sudan to its list of states supporting "terrorism," a measure that provides for sanctions and limited contacts.

"The U.S. believes this decision was necessary in order to ensure the safety of American personnel," the State Department said Wednesday after ordering its personnel to leave Khartoum.

But the State Department did not opt to break off diplomatic relations with Sudan, a decision that was seen as an attempt to keep dialogue open with the regime in Khartoum.

Experts said Sheikh Abdul Rahman's trial was seen among radical as a diabolic pact between the United States and Egypt against Islam, a perception that was reinforced with U.S. backing of the U.N. resolution against Sudan.

Ken Katzman, a Middle East expert at the Congressional Research Service, said the U.S. decision to pull out of Sudan was also a signal to Egypt that it supports efforts to maintain a secular state.

"Mr. Mubarak is a friend and an ally in the region, not just in the Middle East peace process but also against Iraq," he said, referring to U.S. efforts to keep a tight lid on international sanctions against Baghdad.

There is a new element to Iraq's apparent willingness to sell oil under the terms of Resolution 986, the U.S. official said. "It is perhaps a recognition by Iraq and some of their closer allies on the council that there is no prospect for paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 being implemented in the foreseeable future."

"Therefore, if there is any concern on the part of Saddam Hussein — and that's a big 'if' — for his people, the only way to get additional funds for humanitarian supplies would be to use 986," the official said.

"The council would be delighted if he cares about his people and would be delighted to approve" in agreement on the modalities worked out during the talks, the official said. "But right now we're a long way from here to there."

But the subjects for the talks could be the modalities of how the oil account is set up, how the oil is sold, who monitors the sales, how the food and medicine are distributed, and who monitors the impact of that distribution, the official suggested.

Iraq originally rejected the resolution, holding out hope that the oil embargo would be lifted under the terms of the ceasefire resolution which stipulated that when the Special Commission overseeing the destruction of Iraqi weapons (UNSCOM) had certified that Iraq had complied with all its requirements, Iraq could resume the unrestricted sale of oil.

However, during most of 1995 UNSCOM gathered new and damaging information revealing a weapons programme larger than Baghdad had admitted and a deliberate policy by the Iraqi government to hold onto the weapons it agreed to give up at the end of the Persian Gulf war.

UNSCOM's reports dashed any hope that Iraq would be given clearance by the council to sell oil anytime soon.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Israel names first envoy to Tunisia

**TEL AVIV (AFP)** — Israel has appointed a Tunisian-born career diplomat as its first official envoy to Tunis, Deputy Foreign Minister Eli Dayan said Tuesday. Shalom Cohen, 40, will open an Israeli interests section in the Belgian embassy in Tunis on April 15, he said. The two countries agreed to establish relations at the interests section level at a Washington meeting last month between Israeli Foreign Minister Ehud Barak and his Tunisian counterpart Habib Ben Yahia. Mr. Cohen, who came to Israel in 1966, is a son of Rabbi Yonah Cohen, a leader of the Tunisian Jewish community in the 1950s. Most of Tunisia's 110,000 Jews subsequently emigrated to Israel. "I remember that the Jewish community in Tunisia enjoyed equal rights with the country's other inhabitants in a liberal, atmosphere unlike that in any other Arab state at the time," Mr. Cohen told journalists. Mr. Cohen has worked in the past in Belgium, Burma, Canada, Ethiopia, the United States and Zaire.

### Israel objects to PNA envoy in Cyprus

**TEL AVIV (AFP)** — Israel protested to Cyprus on Monday after it recognised the senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official on the island as the representative of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). Israel's deputy foreign minister, Eli Dayan, said the accords granting the Palestinians limited self-rule forbade the PNA from having representation abroad. "Israel is opposed categorically to such a designation because it contradicts the autonomy accords signed between Israel and the PLO," he wrote, according to Israeli officials. The accord extending self-rule which was signed in Washington on Sept. 28, 1995 said the autonomy council elected last month would have no power or responsibility in the domain of external affairs.

"In Nicosia, the PLO representative at the centre of the dispute, Samir Abu Ghazaleh, said he was 'astonished' by the Israeli protest. He told AFP that all official PLO representatives abroad, whatever their title or diplomatic status, had represented the PNA since it was created in the first stage of autonomy in 1994. He cited as three examples the Palestinian representatives to Jordan, Egypt and Qatar, who he said already had the title of representative of the PNA.

### Egypt gets internal intelligence chief

**CAIRO (AFP)** — Egypt's Interior Minister Hassan Al Ali appointed a new head of the country's internal intelligence agency, State Security Investigations (SSI) on Monday, ministry sources said. General Habib Al Adil, formerly the minister's assistant for security, was named to replace the outgoing General Ahmad Al Adil, who was made the minister's assistant for economic affairs, the sources said. Ahmad Al Adil, whom General Ali appointed when he took the ministry in 1993, was a leading figure in the state's fierce campaign against militants fighting to topple the government of President Hosni Mubarak. He was credited with a number of successful blows which security dealt to extremists in the latter part of 1995, including the breaking up of a number of armed cells and the discovery of large weapons caches, the sources said. But no reason was given for the shakeup in the ministry.

### Ex-Shin Bet chief seeking ambassadorship to Japan

**TEL AVIV (AFP)** — The outgoing head of Israel's internal security agency, who resigned over the assassination of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, has asked to be named as the Jewish state's ambassador to Japan, it was reported Tuesday. The daily Haaretz said Karmi Gilon, 45, had asked Prime Minister Shimon Peres for the Tokyo job and has the backing of the foreign ministry. Mr. Gilon, 45, resigned last month as head of Shin Bet after receiving a formal reprimand over the breakdown in security which permitted a radical Jewish nationalist, Yigal Amir, to shoot Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin last November. He remains at the head of Shin Bet pending the formal takeover in coming weeks by his appointed successor, Ami Ayalon. Mr. Gilon was a career agent in Shin Bet, paradoxically building a reputation as the security agency's top expert on Jewish extremists like Amir. He was one of seven Shin Bet and police officials to receive a reprimand from the commission set up to investigate the circumstances of the Rabin assassination and could face legal action.

### 100-year-old rabbi quits prestigious school

**BNEI BRAK (AFP)** — Rabbi Eliezer Shach, the 100-year-old head of Israel's most prestigious ultra-orthodox theological school, is quitting in a doctrinal row with his colleagues, associates said Tuesday. Rabbi Shach, an influential leader of the United Torah Judaism party, told associates he was leaving the Ponioviz Yeshiva, in Bnei Brak near Tel Aviv, because of "spiritual differences" with other directors of the Talmudic institute. Students and former students, who number in the tens of thousands across the globe, turned out to support the aged rabbi, distributing leaflets in front of the school asking him to reconsider his decision. "We have only one master and his work is in danger," one of the demonstrators said. Rabbi Shach has headed the school for 50 years. The Ponioviz Yeshiva follows the so-called Lithuanian approach of rational research into Jewish holy writings, in contrast to the more emotional bent of the Hassidic movement. In addition to his role as a spiritual leader of United Torah Judaism, which has four deputies in the parliament, Rabbi Shach was a founder of another ultra-orthodox party, Shas, which has six deputies.

## Resolution 986 will not be amended, American officials assert

**UNITED NATIONS (USIA)** — The so-called "oil talks" between the United Nations and Iraq will not include amending the terms set out by the U.N. Security Council when it adopted its oil-for-food resolution in April 1995, according to U.S. officials.

U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright "has made clear that the United States does not believe that any negotiations on implementing (Resolution) 986 should include the possibility of amending 986. These are negotiations about the modalities and 'the hows' and of implementation," said a U.S. official Feb. 5 on the eve of the talks.

"In our discussions with key countries in the region as well as key countries on the council we have not heard any delegation propose amendments to 986 as the outcome of these negotiations... We are satisfied that all council members believe 986 should be implemented as written," the U.S. official said.

"We have, obviously, very strongly argued that this resolution is the litmus test of whether Saddam Hussein

wants more food and medicine for his people. It's structured for that purpose. If he wants to change it and use it for some other purpose, we'll know that when the talks begin. If he wants to meet the needs of his people, we'll know that because he'll negotiate the technical details," the official said.

Implementing the resolution as written, the official added, "does permit flexibility for the (U.N.) secretary general to determine exactly how the oil will be sold, exactly how much 'a majority' means, exactly how many monitors would be necessary to ensure that the food and medicine gets to the Iraqi people in general, and what would be necessary to ensure that \$150 million or so got to the Kurds. So there are plenty of technical details to work out."

The talks with the Iraqi government on the oil-for-food formula began Tuesday in New York. The U.N. delegation will be headed by Undersecretary General Hans Corell, the U.N. legal counsel. The Iraqi delegation will be led by Ambassador Abdul Amir Al Anbari, who was Iraq's U.N. ambassador

during the invasion of Kuwait and is currently Iraq's envoy to UNESCO.

In April 1995 the Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 986 allowing Iraq to sell up to \$1,000 million of oil every 90 days under U.N. supervision in order to buy humanitarian supplies for Iraqi civilians.

The terms of the resolution stipulated that the proceeds of the oil sales would be deposited in a special account and distributed according to a set formula: 30 per cent to the Compensation Fund dealing with claims resulting from the invasion of Kuwait. Two to four per cent for the U.N. administration of the oil sales, six per cent for the Special Commission overseeing the destruction of Iraqi weapons, and the remainder for the humanitarian aid.

The council stipulated that a major portion of the oil must be shipped through the Turkish pipeline and said that about \$20 to \$30 million of the proceeds from the first oil sale are to pay for repairs to the pipeline, which has gone unused since the oil embargo was imposed in 1990. Iraq is also allowed to sell an addi-

tional \$289 million of oil — above the \$1,000 million — to pay the tariffs charged by Turkey.

The council also said that \$150 million of the aid money must be turned over to the U.N. programme for the Kurds in northern Iraq and the secretary general must report to the council every 90 days on whether Iraq is using the funds to provide food, medicine, and other humanitarian supplies to the Iraqi people.

One of the changes between the earlier oil-for-food resolutions and Resolution 986 is that the earlier ones required the U.N. to supervise the distribution of the food and medicine. In 986 the U.N. was given the responsibility of assessing the impact of the distribution as a means of determining whether the food and medicine go to the Iraqi people in need. "There are three basic principles of 986 that the Iraqis objected to when they refused to begin the negotiations last year," the U.S. official pointed out. "They are: that the majority (of oil) go through the Turkish pipeline; the fact that roughly one-third, or about \$350 million, would go to the

Compensation Commission; and that \$150 million of the \$650 million would have to go to the Kurds."

Those terms "were written in the resolution. There is no delegation that we're aware of that has proposed making any changes" in the terms, the official said. "They are not now on the table for discussion."

But the subjects for the talks could be the modalities of how the oil account is set up, how the oil is sold, who monitors the sales, how the food and medicine are distributed, and who monitors the impact of that distribution, the official suggested.

Iraq originally rejected the resolution, holding out hope that the oil embargo would be lifted under the terms of the ceasefire resolution which stipulated that when the Special Commission overseeing the destruction of Iraqi weapons (UNSCOM) had certified that Iraq had complied with all its requirements, Iraq could resume the unrestricted sale of oil.

However, during most of 1995 UNSCOM gathered new and damaging information revealing a weapons

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 73111-19

### PROGRAMME TWO

14:00 The Flintstones  
14:30 Speed Racer  
15:00 Doc — Islamic History in Jordan  
15:30 Islamic Antiquities in Jordan  
16:00 Voyagers  
17:00 Doc — Planete En Equilibre  
17:30 Serie Les Dames de la Cote  
18:00 Le Journal  
19:15 Magazine — Sports Et Musique  
19:30 News Headlines  
19:35 Comedy — Evening Shade  
20:00 Doc — Oriental Rugs  
20:30 Hawaii Five — O  
21:10 Documentary — Horizon Two Big...  
22:00 News in English  
22:25 Drama — Atwill  
23:20 The Silk Road  
00:30 Second Thoughts

### PRAYER TIMES

05:03 Fajr  
06:32 (Summer) Duha  
11:50 Dhuhir  
14:51 Asr  
17:18 Maghrib  
18:37 Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Swedish Tel. 810741  
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Terrasanta Church Tel. 623366  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541  
Anglican Church Tel. 652826  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775281  
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751  
Armenian International Church Tel. 652526  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328  
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457  
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654032  
Church of Nazareth Tel. 674991  
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology  
Warm weather conditions will prevail with temperatures above

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY  
AMMAN:  
Dr. Isam Al Anbari 809504  
Dr. Awni Al Hawamdeh 832580  
Dr. Khalidun Adwan 666873  
Dr. Jum'a Abu Dhiab 758848  
Firas pharmacy 661912  
Ferdous pharmacy 786356  
Al Asena pharmacy 637055  
Naroukh pharmacy 625672  
Al Salan pharmacy 626730  
Yasoub pharmacy 634045  
Simouan pharmacy 637441  
Naroukh pharmacy 625672  
Noub pharmacy 847602

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111  
Civil Defence Department 661111  
Civil Defence Emergency 630841  
Rescue 617101  
Fire Brigade 617101  
Blood Bank 775121  
Highway Police 624302  
Traffic Police 696390  
Public Security Department 630321  
Hotel Complaints 661176  
Water and Sewerage Complaints 807467  
Amman Municipality 787111  
Telephone information (directory assistance) 121  
Overseas Calls 010230  
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101  
Abdullah Telephone Repairs 661101  
Jordan Television 773111  
Radio Jordan 660100  
Jordan Electricity Authority 815645

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Husseini Medical Centre 813132  
Khalidi Maternity J. Ann. 642816  
Akkil Maternity J. Ann. 642442  
Malibis J. Amman 636141  
RJ Flight Hospital 06-53200  
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 06-53200

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)  
08:35 Jeddah (RJ)  
08:55 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
10:15 Larnaca, Damascus (RJ)  
14:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
17:55 Istanbul (RJ)  
18:00 Thessalon, Montreal (RJ)  
18:05 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)  
18:05 Brussels, Paris (RJ)  
18:10 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)  
18:25 London, Berlin (RJ)  
18:40 Jakarta, Abu Dhabi (add) (RJ)  
23:20 Beirut (RJ)  
00:10 Cairo (RJ)  
01:30 Jeddah (add) (RJ)

### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:50 Cairo (MS)  
10:30 Jeddah (SV)  
12:15 Karachi, Abu Dhabi (PK)  
14:20 Algiers (AH)  
14:20 Samara (IY)  
20:10 Beirut (ME)  
22:05 Larnaca (CY)  
22:45 Athens, Beirut (OA)  
23:25 Amsterdam (BA)  
23:59 London, Beirut (BA)

### DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)  
09:45 Rome (RJ)  
10:15 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)  
10:35 Berlin, London (RJ)  
11:35 Istanbul (RJ)  
19:10 Columbus (RJ)  
19:35 Beirut (RJ)  
20:05 Riyadh, Dhahran (RJ)  
20:10 New Delhi (RJ)  
20:25 Cairo (RJ)  
20:30 Jeddah (add) (RJ)  
21:10 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)  
21:15 Dubai, Moscow (RJ)  
22:45 Samara (IY)  
Other Flights (Terminal 2)  
07:45 Beirut (ME)  
09:15 London (RJ)  
10:40 Cairo (MS)  
12:00 Jeddah (SV)  
13:25 Abu Dhabi, Karachi (PK)  
15:20 Shiraz (AI)  
21:00 Samara (IY)  
22:50 Larnaca (CY)

### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:50 Cairo (MS)  
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22:05 Larnaca (CY)  
22:45 Athens, Beirut (OA)  
23:25 Amsterdam (BA)  
23:59 London, Beirut (BA)

### DEPARTURES





**IFTAR WITH THEIR MAJESTIES:** Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor Tuesday host an iftar for the Jubilee School's steering committee, staff and students at Al Hussein Sports City. The Jubilee School, which commemorates King Hussein's Silver Jubilee accession to the throne, is an independent co-educational secondary school for outstanding scholarship students from the country and the region, with special emphasis on Jordan's less developed areas. Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, Chief of the Royal Court Awn Khasawneh and Minister of Education Munther Masri attended the iftar (photo by Crystal)



**Her Majesty Queen Noor** Tuesday chairs a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (photo by Crystal)

## Queen, board review NHF 1995 achievements

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday chaired the Noor Al Hussein Foundation's (NHF) Board of Trustees meeting at which the NHF's achievements over the past year were discussed, a Royal Court statement said.

These achievements, said the statement, include several of the foundation's major national projects such as the Jubilee School, which has commenced the first phase of construction at its permanent campus in Yajouz; the Jordan Design and Trade Centre, which is completing its plan to become a national design and trade institution and is developing trademark design and copyright laws for the protection of handicrafts artisans; the Population Programme for the Grassroots, which, with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), is expanding in villages throughout the country; as well as the Quality of Life Project, which, in collaboration with the World Health Organisation, is establishing a regional advocacy, training and coordination centre in Jordan and developing outreach capacities in the Arab World.

During the meeting, Queen Noor and the board expressed their hope that the NHF's national projects would continue their pattern of national-institutionalisation and self-reliance that has already been achieved by other projects such as the Jerash Festival, the National Music Conservatory and the SOS Villages, the statement said.

Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, who is a member of NHF board, affirmed his government's commitment to support development projects that address the national priorities of the citizens of Jordan, the statement said.

## 'Officials work on reviving National Security Council'

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The appointment of former General Intelligence Directorate Chief Mustafa Qaisi as rapporteur of the National Security Council on Sunday by His Majesty King Hussein has meant the revival of the council, according to well-informed sources.

Mr. Qaisi, also appointed as the King's advisor for national security affairs, told the Jordan Times that the structure of the council is currently being worked on, and is expected to be finalised in the next few weeks.

Senior sources told the Jordan Times that although the council has existed for more than 30 years, it has done so only in name. Other sources, however, maintain that the council did meet intermittently in the 1960s.

According to sources contacted by the Jordan Times, the council is presided over by the King, and its members include the prime minister, minister of interior, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, director general of the Public Security Department, directors of both the General Intelligence Directorate, and the Department of Military Intelligence, as well as other high-ranking security personnel.

One senior source said the council primarily deals with internal issues relating to "the safety and stability of the country," adding that the decisions made by the council are carried out by the various security agencies in the Kingdom.

The council, according to sources, is similar in format to the U.S. National Security Council, which is responsible for the supervision of the country's intelligence community.

The American National Security Council comprises the president of the U.S. as chairman, the vice president, the secretaries of state and defence, the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, and other officials whom the president may appoint with Senate approval.

Its staff is headed by a special assistant for national security affairs and is part of the office of the president.

A senior source told the Jordan Times, however, that whereas the council in the U.S. is considered a department, the Jordanian National Security Council is only a committee. The source also added that the Jordanian council has been part of the state apparatus, as opposed to being part of the Royal Court.

## 'Ministry of Justice will not drop case contesting validity of bar association elections'

By Lola Keilani  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Khalaf Masaadeh, a defeated candidate in the 1995 Jordan Bar Association (JBA) elections, denied on Tuesday that he and the Ministry of Justice intend to drop the cases contesting the validity of the elections.

Mr. Masaadeh told the Jordan Times that the case was now with the Higher Court of Justice and thus it could not be dropped.

"The case is not only against the presidential seat, which is now vacant," said Mr. Masaadeh, referring to the appointment this week of JBA President Kamal Nasser as minister of administrative development. "It is also against the elected council and the overseeing committee."

Mr. Masaadeh who represents 120 lawyers, was commenting on a statement by Ziad Khasawneh, the vice-president of the association, saying that according to the Ministry of Justice the case is closed.

Mr. Khasawneh, who will run for the association's presidency in the April election, added that sources had confirmed that the Higher Court of Justice will issue its ruling on the case on Feb. 7 considering the case as invalid.

Two complaints were filed in March against the president of the association and the elected members of the JBA. The first was made by the then Minister of Justice Hisham Taji because he had instructed the bar association to strike all West Bank members from the association's roster and to prohibit their participation in the 1995 elections due to the Kingdom's 1985 decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the West Bank.

The second complaint was brought by Mr. Masaadeh who charges that: Lawyers were not legally notified of elections beforehand; that the elections were not held in the suitable place; that the budget was ratified during the elections by show of hands rather than a secret ballot; that the budget was not presented to lawyers before elections; that the elections overseeing committee was informally appointed by the former council and president instead of being elected by the assembly; that the voting hours extended their legal limitation; that voters were not given a ballot card to be validated; and that the ballot tables were not organised to and the number of voters at each booth did not correspond to ballot tables.



**Ministry of Water and Irrigation Secretary General Qusay Qteishat** and a representative of the Japanese International Cooperation Agency Tuesday sign minutes of a meeting on discussions on water supply and management projects (Petra photo)

## Jordan, Japan sign minutes of meeting on water supply projects

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Tuesday signed minutes of their discussions on water supply and management which they held last week.

A statement from the Ministry of Water and Irrigation said that the talks covered water supply to Amman from the Deir Alla area in the Jordan Valley through a project that would raise supplies from 45 million cubic metres annually to 90 million as a first stage.

Ministry Secretary General Qusay Qteishat, who signed the minutes with the JICA representative, said the project entails enlarging the facility at Zay, west of Amman, to store water pumped from the Jordan Valley on its way to Amman and to boost the capacity of the pipelines carrying the water from the valley.

According to Mr. Qteishat, this, as well as the other stages of the project will be financed through loans and grants from JICA, adding that the project, which will be completed in six years, starts its first stage in June.

Meanwhile, it was announced here Tuesday that a Japanese team of technicians and economists will arrive in Amman on Feb. 11.

The team will carry out a study on Jordan's economy and Jordanian developments as well as cooperation between the Japanese and Jordanian governments in their implementation.

## Study to construct new railway line in S. Jordan underway

AQABA (Petra) — With phosphate production at several Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) mines in southern Jordan on the rise, the Aqaba Railways Corporation (ARC) is studying the feasibility of constructing a new 25-kilometre railway line linking the Shidiyah mine with the nearest railway station along the line to Aqaba, a railway official said Tuesday.

According to Ziad Darwish, director of the Aqaba railway station ARC annually transports 3.976 million tonnes (mainly for export) from the mines to Aqaba.

He said the JPMC expects to increase that amount to 4.5 million tonnes by the year 2000.

Mr. Darwish said the expansion at the Shidiyah mine, the largest in Jordan, is aimed at boosting production to 10 million tonnes per year by the end of the century adding that recent studies on Shidiyah showed a production capability of at least another 100 years.

The ARC also transports phosphate from the other two mines at Al Hassa and Abyad to Aqaba by rail and also utilises 300 trucks, each with a capacity of 42 tonnes, to haul phosphate to the port city, said Mr. Darwish.

He said that in addition to building the 25-kilometre line, the ARC will continue to rely on truck shipments for its operations.

Last month the JPMC announced 1995 exports of phosphates totalled 3.88 million tonnes and sales of 1.14 million tonnes to the industrial fertiliser complex in Aqaba.

It said its exports of phosphate and phosphatic fertilisers in 1995 earned it \$277 million.

### WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM

\* "Prince Suspect" (Part I) at the British Council at 8:00 p.m.

PLAY/CONCERTS

\* "Ramadan Supermarket" (in Arabic) at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

\* Engravings by French artists at the French Cultural Centre (until Feb. 29).

\* Printmaking and paintings by Jordanian artist Yasser Dweik at Darat Al Funun, Jahal Luweibdeh. Also displaying paintings and sculptures by contemporary artists (until Feb. 18).

## Czech virtuoso to grace Jordanian stage

AMMAN (J.T.) — Although the National Music Conservatory (NMC) of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation has organised numerous music activities featuring top musicians and performing ensembles from all over the world, its next music activity has been described as "a rare and exceptional event in Jordan."

Organised by the NMC and the Czech embassy in Jordan, in cooperation with Czech Airlines and the Marriott Hotel, the leading violinist of the Czech Republic, Václav Hudeček, will perform in a violin recital on Sunday at the Royal Cultural Centre, Main Theatre, an NMC statement said.

Hailed as one of the best three contemporary violinists in the world, Václav Hudeček started playing the violin at the age of five and continued his studies under the supervision of the legendary violinist David Oistrach.

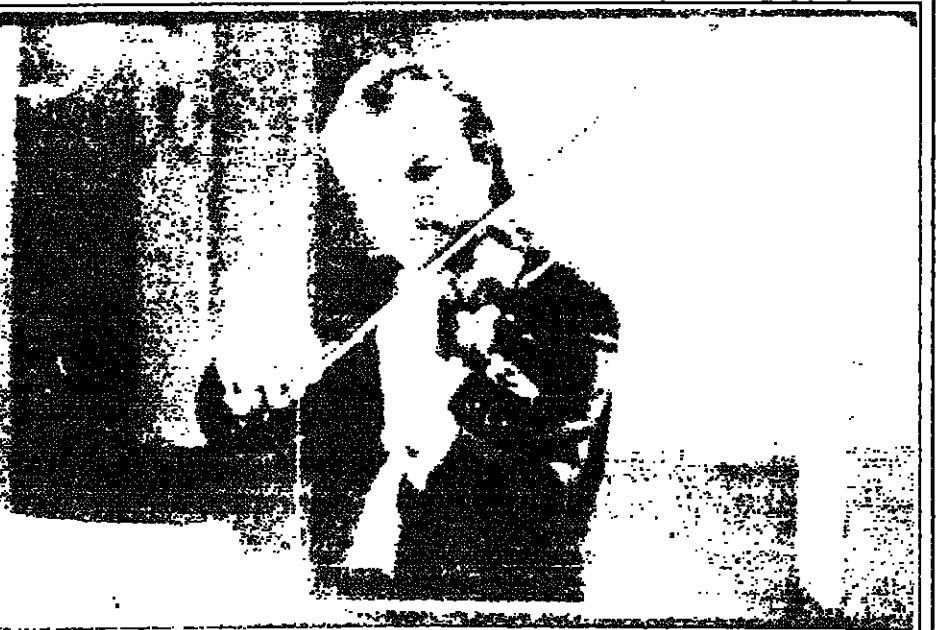
His career began when he was 15-years-old, playing Paganini's Concerto in D major with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in London in 1976.

Since then he has performed with world orchestras such as the Berliner Philharmoniker, the Gewandhaus Orchester, the Cleveland Symphony Orchestra, the NHK Tokyo, and the Moscow State Philharmonic Orchestra.

Mr. Hudeček has also been a guest at international music festivals such as Salzburg, Athens, Perth, Dubrovnik, Helsinki and Istanbul.

"He is an excellent interpreter of virtuoso violin concertos and violin sonatas."

Since 1990, he has been playing on the Liboni, a unique and rare type of violin that was made in the workshop of the great



lulist Antonio Stradivari. Accompanying Mr. Hudeček on the piano will be his compatriot Petr Adamec who has been cooperating with Mr. Hudeček since 1977.

Mr. Adamec is an outstanding interpreter of chamber piano compositions. He is also an associate professor at the Faculty of Music at the Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts in Prague.

The programme of the recital will include Mozart's Sonata in G Major, Beethoven's Sonata No. 1 in D Major, Schubert's Duo Sonata in A Major and Dvorak's Sonatina in G Major.







## Europe shivers under a blanket of snow

LONDON (R) — From Britain to Yugoslavia, Europe shivered under a thick blanket of snow Tuesday as freezing temperatures brought chaos to much of the continent.

As transport systems clattered to a halt and emergency services moved into overdrive, forecasters warned the arctic snap was likely to continue in several areas.

Blizzards trapped over 1,000 drivers in their cars overnight in southern Scotland and brought down power lines across Britain, leaving more than 25,000 homes without electricity.

Snow drifted up to two metres deep in places and one motorist organisation described conditions as a "whitemare".

Danish government ice-breakers went into action for the first time in nearly a decade to clear channels between Jutland and the islands of Funen and Zealand, where the capital Copenhagen is situated.

Another icebreaker was sent to the Oresund Channel between Zealand and Sweden, where drifting ice has disrupted high-speed shuttles between Copenhagen and the Swedish port of Malmö.

Temperatures in Denmark have hit lows of minus 15 Celsius (five degrees Fahrenheit) while the Swedish capital Stockholm has seen minus 30 degrees Celsius (minus 22 Fahrenheit).

In France, snow blanketed the northwest regions of Brittany and Normandy, paralysing numerous roads and prompting authorities to close schools in several areas.

Police said more than a foot of snow (30 cms) fell in some places in what seemed to be the heaviest snowfalls in the region in a decade. Rare snow also fell in southern France, covering the ancient town of Nîmes, the site of a Roman amphitheatre.

German newspapers said the country was experiencing its coldest winter since 1986-87. The River Elbe in eastern Germany has frozen over, bringing barge traffic to a standstill.

## Nigeria-Cameroon border clashes claims 4 lives

LAGOS (AFP) — Four people died and 13 were injured in clashes between Nigerian and Cameroonian forces, the Nigerian press reported Tuesday, citing military sources.

Reports said two Nigerian soldiers were killed and two injured in clashes in the disputed Bakassi peninsula area Saturday.

Two civilians were also reported killed, 11 others injured and two Cameroonian police officers taken prisoner. There was no official confirmation of the reports.

## Dole fights to keep Republican campaign lead

WASHINGTON (R) — With the first votes of the 1996 presidential campaign about to be cast, Senate majority leader Bob Dole is struggling to stay ahead of his Republican rivals amid doubts any of them can beat President Bill Clinton.

Republicans in Louisiana can vote Tuesday in caucuses for their presidential candidate to face Mr. Clinton next November. But only three of the nine candidates are on the ballot so the outcome should not be of great significance.

The first real test will come next Monday in Iowa, to be followed eight days later by the New Hampshire primary. Polling data is confusing from both states but suggests Sen. Dole is neck-and-neck with millionaire publisher Steve Forbes, who has surged in the past two weeks but may be peaking.

"The data is difficult but it is clear Sen. Dole has lost ground in both Iowa and New Hampshire, reflecting a lack of enthusiasm for him among Republicans," said Karlyn Keene, who studies polls for the American Enterprise Institute.

In three polls in New Hampshire released Monday Mr. Forbes was narrowly ahead of Sen. Dole in two and behind in a third. In a Dartmouth



Iceicles hang from an orange in a Florida grove, as bitterly cold Arctic weather headed south, leaving orange trees covered with ice and tourists shivering on beaches. Central Florida farmers tried to protect their crops by using water to de-ice the fruit and protect them from the low temperatures (Reuters photo)

## Tourists shiver, oranges freeze as storm hits Florida

TAMPA, Fla. (R) — Bitterly cold Arctic weather that numbed the eastern two-thirds of the United States headed south to Florida Monday, leaving orange trees covered with ice and tourists shivering on beaches.

Temperatures fell below freezing in central Florida, damaging some of the state's annual \$1.2 billion citrus crop. A record low of 19 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 7 degrees Celsius) was reported in Jacksonville and in Florida's northern panhandle the wind chill took the mercury to minus three degrees (minus 20 degrees C) in Panama City, forecasters said.

"There is ice in the fruit, defoliation of the trees, and damage to new growth," said a spokeswoman for the Florida Citrus Mutual Growers' Cooperative. "That means trouble not only for this year's crop but next year's too."

Florida orange, strawberry and vegetable growers who spent the weekend rushing to pick their fruit said it would take several days to determine the amount of damage. Officials said the freeze was not as bad as 1989 when the state's citrus and winter vegetable crops were severely damaged.

Tourists who flocked to Florida to bask in the sun found themselves bundled up in heavy coats, hats and gloves. Miami Beach Hotel guests awakened to palm trees bending under gusting winds but a few hardy holidaymakers endured a walk on sunny beaches normally crowded with swimmers.

The only sun-seekers who put on bathing suits were a trio of models on a magazine photo session, hopping with the cold and grabbing heavy towels for warmth between shots.

"You can't feel your toes," said model Tariana Engelhardt. "You have to dress and undress... And it's cold out here."

But even the coldest Florida weather was mild compared to the farm belt where dozens of deaths have been blamed on last month's record-breaking blizzard and an Arctic blast that dumped snow, ice and sleet from Minnesota south to Louisiana last week.

In some rural areas of Minnesota, temperatures plunged to minus 50 degrees (minus 58C) at the weekend. Emergency workers blamed the storm for 11 deaths in North and South Carolina, 10 in Illinois, four in Mississippi, three in Alabama and one each in Georgia and Pennsylvania.

Hampshire Republicans said in the New York Post poll that they thought Mr. Clinton deserved re-election.

Most analysts do not believe Mr. Forbes can beat Sen. Dole in the long haul but they say his campaign has exposed what could be some deadly weaknesses for Sen. Dole.

"Dole would probably have a difficult time against Clinton," said Charles Jones, a political analyst at the University of Wisconsin. "It has always been difficult for Senate majority leaders, whose job involves building consensus and moving legislation, to run for president, which involves articulating a message," Mr. Jones said.

Sen. Dole's legislative reflexes often seem to reassert themselves on the campaign trail. Last Friday, he proposed holding national hearings on his rival Steve Forbes' "flat tax" proposal — hardly a ringing campaign message.

"Once the senator, always the senator. This is not a man who functions well as a presidential candidate and I think this prize will elude him," said Allan Lichtman, a political scientist with the American University.

One quarter of New Hampshire voters said they would vote for Sen. Dole in the upcoming election, according to a poll released Sunday by the Concord Monitor.

## Taiwan seeks to calm war of words with China

TAIPEI (AFP) — Taiwan Tuesday sought to calm its war of words with Beijing after another day of jitters over China's reported plans to hold large-scale military exercises on the Nationalist island's doorstep.

Shunning his usual criticism of China for fueling the tensions in the Taiwan Strait, Taiwanese President Lee Teng-hui seized the occasion of the earthquake disaster in the southwestern Chinese province of Yunnan to sound a conciliatory note.

"There was a big earthquake in Yunnan and serious casualties," Mr. Lee said while inaugurating his campaign office in Miaoli, south of Taipei. "This is the time for all of us here to exercise our love for our compatriots and to help the people there."

"We are all Chinese people. We should help each other," he said, adding that the "love for our compatriots is not changed by any differences in political ideologies."

He insisted that the removal of Taiwan's state of emergency on May 1, 1991, easing hostilities with China, reflected the government's efforts to improve relations with the mainland.

But China was in no mood for compromise with the island it regards as a renegade province that will one day return to the mainland's control.

In a scathing attack published by Xinhua, Beijing accused Mr. Lee of plotting since his student days of creating an independent Taiwan.

"Lee Teng-hui hid his intention for advocacy of the 'independence of Taiwan,'" he worked for the Kuomintang for a long time until rising to the 'peak' of power in Taiwan," the 1,000-word commentary alleged.



Taiwanese soldiers load up missiles during a military exercise held by the defense ministry off the coast of the eastern county of Hualien Tuesday. The ministry said the exercise was routine and was not related to recent tensions between Taiwan and China (Reuters photo)

It said Mr. Lee formed an "iron triangle" with two pro-independence activists, Peng Ming-min and Liu Ching-rui, and that he secretly kept in contact with his "super-aid" Mr. Peng during the latter's exile in the United States.

Mr. Peng is a candidate running against Mr. Lee in Taiwan's March 23 presidential elections, a vote widely seen as a watershed in the island's history.

Although China has publicly said the polls are of no significance to Taiwan's status, the attack on Mr. Lee, who is the odds-on favourite to become the island's first democratically elected president, revealed deep fears from Beijing over the island's destiny.

Mr. Peng and Mr. Lee "both violate the fundamental interests of the Chinese nation, including those of the people from Taiwan..."

they are doomed to failure," the article said.

The government here, driven off the mainland after losing a civil war to the Chinese Communists in 1949, has in recent years permitted private and trade exchanges with China. It still holds eventual reunification with the mainland as a state policy.

But Mr. Lee's "private" trip to the United States in June enraged China, which interpreted the visit as an attempt to promote Taiwan's independence.

Beijing retaliated by holding two rounds of missile tests and a large-scale military drill near the island, and running vicious attacks against Mr. Lee for four days running.

Press reports say China will hold two other rounds of huge military exercises this week and early next month to intimidate the Nationalist island.

The Taiwan Bourse fell further Tuesday as nerves mounted over tension with China.

Share prices lost 1.5 per cent, with Taiwan's weighted price index closing at 4,690.22 points, down 69.03.

In a bid to calm people here and boost their confidence in the government, the Defence Ministry has held two days of military exercises in Hualien, eastern Taiwan.

The Taiwan Defence Ministry also said it had detected no unusual troop movements but added Nationalist troops would remain on the alert during the Lunar New Year, which this year falls on Feb. 19. It also appealed for public calm.

Washington, meanwhile, was urging Asian governments to "do everything necessary" to calm tension between Beijing and Taipei.

## S. Korea's Kim rallies party on anti-graft platform

SEOUL (R) — South Korean President Kim Young-Sam Tuesday set out an election platform for his ruling party that vows to end corruption, stamp out "rotten politics" and ensure the military never again grabs power.

Addressing 12,000 cheering supporters, Mr. Kim appealed for a clear mandate for his revamped and renamed New Korea Party in general elections in April.

The stark choice for voters, he told party faithful packed into a Seoul sports stadium for a national convention, is "stability or confusion".

"We have to put an end to rotten politics. The practice of buying and selling seats in the National Assembly must be terminated once and for all," he said.

The platform draws on Mr. Kim's growing stature as an anti-graft campaigner following the arrest and detention of two former presidents, Chun Doo Hwan and Roh Tae-Woo, on corruption and other charges.

Mr. Kim is hoping his party will cruise to victory on a national wave of revulsion against the corrupt excesses of his military-backed predecessors.

"The fact that two former presidents are under arrest is a national misfortune and disgrace," he said.

"Grabbing power through a coup d'etat and amassing a fortune by abusing power, however, should never be allowed to happen again in this land."

The rally rolled out what will become the party's rallying slogan in the first elections to the National Assembly under a civilian president: "Reform within stability".

It is a slogan that addresses a popular desire for clean government while nodding to anxieties that political turmoil could threaten economic growth.

"Social stability without reform is stagnation; reform without stability is chaos," Mr. Kim said to thunderous applause from his audience, many of them holding aloft colourful plastic batons and waving national flags.

Mr. Kim said a vote against the ruling party could be a vote for the kind of street violence, demonstrations and labour unrest that engulfed the country in the late 1980s when the opposition held a parliamentary majority.

At that time Mr. Kim was an opposition leader. "Without securing a comfortable majority in the National Assembly we will no longer be able to carry out changes and reforms," he said.

The convention included a raucous stage show featuring everything from a dark-suited crooner to young pop stars.

Its upbeat mood contrasted with national gloom following the arrest of Mr. Chun and Mr. Roh and revelations that the former generals skimmed hundreds of millions of dollars from business tycoons while in office.

The elections are widely seen as a bellwether for next year's presidential vote.

Mr. Kim is constitutionally barred from seeking a second term, but he must keep his parliamentary majority to avoid becoming a lame duck in South Korea's U.S.-style presidential system.

Crushed in local elections last June, the ruling party had been widely seen heading for another drubbing before Kim launched his anti-graft drive.

Last December the party changed its name to signal a break from its ties to a political machine built by Mr. Chun and Mr. Roh. The party was created through a 1990 merger between two opposition groups, one led by Mr. Kim, and Mr. Roh's ruling camp.

Yet its past has returned to haunt the party with allegations last week by Mr. Chun that he paid the equivalent of about \$125 million to politicians and journalists since 1990 to prepare a political comeback.

Mr. Chun still has influential loyalists within the ruling camp and their integrity is now being called into question.

## Aftershocks hamper relief after deadly China quake

BEIJING (R) — More than 1,000 aftershocks have rattled southwest China's Lijiang region since a killer weekend earthquake, hampering relief work as the number of shattered homes soared to 330,000, officials said Tuesday.

Braving a rare cold snap, many of the hundreds of thousands of people left homeless by Saturday's 7.0-magnitude earthquake huddled in terror outdoors rather than enter damaged houses as the earth continued to shake, they said.

The death toll has climbed to 246 with 15,000 injured, 3,837 of them seriously, said rescue coordinators reached by telephone Tuesday in the Yunnan provincial capital, Kunming.

"The earth is still shaking and we are really scared," a newspaper reporter in Lijiang said by telephone.

He said he had entered the building to fetch something he needed outside when he heard the telephone. "We prefer to work outside."

More than 3,000 troops and armed police were sent from neighbouring Sichuan province to help 2,000 soldiers scouring the rubble of mud-brick homes for any more dead, officials said.

The tally of collapsed homes had surpassed 330,000. Entire villages were obliterated. Warm clothing, shelter and medicine were in desperately short supply, officials said.

"There aren't enough tents and some people just sleep on pieces of wood," the reporter said. "It is really cold, especially at four or five o'clock in the morning."

Relief supplies from China and overseas had begun pouring into the mountainous region of

Yunnan province, accessible from Kunming only by small aircraft or over rutted, twisting roads.

Beijing pledged 20 million yuan (\$2.4 million) in new state emergency aid as well as 5,000 tonnes of fuel, 100,000 padded garments and hundreds of tents, the Xinhua News Agency said.

Some 80 million yuan (\$9.6 million) in aid was delivered Monday, including cash and material donations from Taiwan, Hong Kong and Japan as well as Chinese agencies, firms and individuals.

Top priority was airlifting clothing, quilts, medicine and tents to Lijiang, a region 2,000 kilometres southwest of Beijing and known for its scenic beauty, with ethnic Naxi villages nestled below snow-capped Jade Dragon Snow Mountain.

More assistance was

needed despite a good initial response to Sunday's Red Cross of China appeal, officials said.

"We are now asking for donations of clothing and quilts," a Yunnan provincial official said from Kunming. None of the 1,000 aftershocks recorded by late Tuesday registered more than the 6.0-magnitude shock that jolted residents in Monday's early-morning darkness, officials said.

The main tremor Saturday was the worst in Lijiang since the 15th century and China's deadliest in eight years.

An American tourist who was injured at Tiger Leaping Gorge on the Yangtze River was "not in danger of dying" and taken with 21 fellow foreign travellers to a safe area. Four others had slight injuries, an official in Kunming said.



## Jordan Times

An independent Arab national daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation  
Established 1979

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### Credibility starts at home

HIS ROYAL Highness Crown Prince Hassan has been urging and pushing for, over the past two decades, genuine reforms in the education process and the creation of an information system that would lead itself to more educated and sound decisions and analysis by politicians, economists, researchers and writers.

Ten years have passed since the Kingdom held its famous conference on educational reform. It is the conference that produced volumes of documents containing the guidelines for correcting and enhancing the educational process. As late as last summer, Crown Prince Hassan sent a letter to the Minister of Higher Education complaining that the output of basic education was so weak that the quality of university graduates could not be but poor. If we then take into consideration that many of the university graduates who cannot find jobs with the private sector end up being employed as schoolteachers — with low pay — we can see how the vicious circle goes on and on.

Meanwhile and despite the creation a few years ago of a National Information Centre, information and data remain a scarce commodity. Or, even when they are available, they are rarely circulated or exchanged as the Crown Prince was saying yesterday. The side that unfortunately has been hiding information is the government itself; and, let us face it, it is the government that has most information.

What is mind-boggling, in the field of education is the fact that the country's leadership has been insistently calling, as did Prince Hassan last night, for a genuine reform of the educational system to turn it into one based on logic and reason. One big obstacle to this endeavour, however, is that the funds allocated to education are much below the ambitions of many Jordanians, especially the educators themselves. Good teachers and real reformers require more pay; universities and schools need more facilities that require a bigger slice of the budget.

Information is different. The problem there has to do with the prevailing culture, especially in the bureaucracy. What is mostly needed in this regard is the enactment of a freedom of information law. Except for a few types of data that pertain to national security or personal details, all information must be made available to every citizen, particularly to the social scientists, researchers and the media.

We hope, therefore, that the new government of Abdul Karim Kabariti, mandated by His Majesty the King to bring about profound change, would start by reforming those two sectors: education and information, which are ultimately two faces of the same coin.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

DISCUSSING THE new government of Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily said the Jordanians do not expect miracles from the new Cabinet, stressing that the change of faces does not mean a magic solution for the country's chronic problems. Fahd Al Fanek said that Jordanians pity the new government because of the magnitude of the tasks it is facing in implementing King Hussein's directives. The new government has been instructed to carry out a white revolution to eradicate corruption and weakness in government administration and to reexamine old policies, the status and the performance of key officials, he pointed out. Cautioning the public against excessive optimism and hopes which can not be fulfilled overnight, the writer said that Jordanians should take a lesson from the past experience when they expected too much from the peace process, from the Amman economic summit and the successive governments. The writer said that the new government, which represents all blocs in Parliament, should be given a chance to perform its duty before passing judgment on the results.

JORDANIANS EXPECT the new government to direct its attention to domestic issues for which a genuine white revolution is required, said Saleh Qallab in Al Dustour. There is urgent need for efforts on the part of the Cabinet to work in harmony to remove all distortions that marred Jordan's beautiful image for so long and to end corruption and abuse of authority by administration officials, said the writer. After the first few days of receiving congratulations, the new government will settle down to do serious work and it will find itself facing a very heavy responsibility in tackling chronic problems for which drastic solutions are required, said the writer. It is to be recalled that all the previous governments had pledged to pursue the path of democracy, to deal firmly with all forms of corruption and to place the right person in the right position, but all that went up into thin air, said the writer. What is wanted from the new government, he added, is to translate the King's directives into practice so as to win the confidence of the people and do a really good service to the nation.

### Washington Watch

## Dole drops and now must fight Forbes to win

By Dr. James Zoghy

SENATOR BOB Dole's campaign for the presidency is in trouble. After months as the uncontested leader of the race for the Republican nomination, suddenly the senator has taken a hard fall in key states, and is being forced to work in an effort to recover.

The two reasons most often cited for Mr. Dole's difficulties are his weak response to President Clinton's Jan. 20 State of the Union address and the enormous amount of money spent on anti-Dole television ads by one of his challengers, multi-millionaire Steve Forbes.

Mr. Dole's response to Mr. Clinton was weak, not in content, but in style. Even his Republican supporters complained that the Senator looked too old, too stiff, and that his tone was too harsh.

A press frenzy followed. It was as if the national media had been waiting for a Dole slip. After Mr. Dole's speech, they pounced, and for four days negative stories dominated both the print media and the airwaves.

Mr. Dole's slip coincided with Steve Forbes' effort to break into the race. For months after announcing, Mr. Forbes quietly built his staff and organization and bought television advertising time in some of the key primary states. The early ads simply served to introduce voters to Mr. Forbes and his message of "hope, growth and opportunity." Wielding only one campaign weapon, his call to replace the national tax system with a "flat tax" of 17 per cent Mr. Forbes began to slowly inch his way upward in the polls.

But Mr. Forbes has another weapon: a personal fortune of over \$400 million. All the other presidential hopefuls are raising money according to federal campaign finance laws that require them to adhere to strict reporting requirements, impose a limit of \$1,000 from each contributor, and establish strict spending limits in each state (for example, a total spending limit of \$600,000 in New Hampshire). Mr. Forbes, like Mr. Perot in 1992, has taken advantage of a loophole in the election law which sets no limit on the amount of money individuals may use to finance their own campaign. So while some of other campaigns have nearly reached their spending limits, Mr. Forbes has a virtual open field to buy and spend. And he has.

In the past month, Mr. Forbes began his sprint to the finish line. So far, estimates are that Mr. Forbes has spent \$10 million on television advertising alone. One television station in New Hampshire reports that Mr. Forbes has bought virtually all their available advertising time. Reports from the state indicate that every fifteen minutes a station runs at least one, if not two, Forbes ads.

Mr. Dole once held a commanding 20 point lead in the New Hampshire polls. One New Hampshire observer characterised the Forbes surge, saying: "You are witnessing the total domination of the electronic media in a small place by one man, and he has succeeded by that one means in bringing the front-runner down to where he can be readily challenged."

The ads, which have had so much effect, are sharply critical of Forbes' opponents and promote his campaign themes of a "flat tax" and opposition to what he calls "Washington politics" as usual.

Most recent polls show Mr. Forbes beating Mr. Dole in New Hampshire by 6-3 per cent. Polls also show Mr. Dole in trouble in Iowa and in Arizona. And in Alaska and Louisiana, two states where conservative Republicans dominate the party's politics, Mr. Buchanan has emerged as the front-runner.

While Mr. Dole's State of the Union response and Mr. Forbes' money are obvious factors to note as reasons for this upheaval in the Republican contest for the nomination, others factors also must be examined.

Mr. Dole, who has been unsuccessful in two previous races for the presidency, tried hard to do everything right this time. He has secured endorsement from virtually the entire Republican establishment: more than two-thirds of the Republican governors, state party chairs and leading elected officials have all endorsed his candidacy. He has carefully crafted his image to fit the image demanded of the increasingly powerful right wing of his party. Since his leading opponent was another Senator, he retained control over the senate during the primary process.

For the most part, this strategy has worked as expected. Most recent national polls of Republican voters still show Mr. Dole maintaining a huge lead over the other Republican challengers. The most recent national poll showed Mr. Dole beating Mr. Forbes 45-15 per cent.

But the primary primaries are not a national contest. They are fought state-by-state, and in the beginning it is one state at a time. This is where Mr. Forbes has succeeded. As in a horse race the initial front-runner often tires, Dole's leads in key states have evaporated as Mr. Forbes has portrayed him of touch and Mr. Dole's own performance on Jan. 20 reinforced an image of Mr. Dole as an old man and somewhat boring. And, just as the Republican primary field enters the home stretch, Mr. Forbes explosion has dominated the media with attacks and new ideas. The fact that Mr. Forbes has never won an election, never served in Washington and is a "political outsider" — all these are themes that he has used to his advantage against his opponents.

Not unlike Mr. Perot in 1992, Mr. Forbes has used frustration with Washington politics as a theme, and it is resonating with many discouraged voters, including those who consider themselves independents. It is in large measure independent voters who are flocking to Forbes' camp in New Hampshire and Iowa. They are looking for an alternative to what they consider the stale ideology of the right wing to whom Mr. Dole and the other Republican challengers have directed their campaigns.

Mr. Dole's slip in his State of the Union response would not have been so problematic were it not for the way the media collectively pounced on the Senator in the days that followed. In fact, very few Americans actually saw Dole's speech. They only know about it through unfavourable news reports.

All of this points to an example of the role that the media and money (used for advertising) plays in shaping the perceptions that become reality in U.S. politics.

Mr. Forbes, again like Mr. Perot before him in 1992, is showing that money can buy a seat at

the table of political power. In the weeks and months to come, he will seek to answer another question: can money buy a major party nomination for the presidency?

Until now, what voters know of Mr. Forbes is his "flat tax" and his ownership of the Forbes publishing empire, the flagship of which is Forbes magazine (a respected and successful business publication founded by his father). Mr. Forbes vast wealth was inherited.

With only a few weeks remaining before the key Iowa and New Hampshire contests, Forbes opponents have begun to counter-attack. While the targets of the attacks are Mr. Forbes' wealth, which is surprising for Republicans, Mr. Dole and Mr. Gramm have also been critical of Forbes' "overly simplistic" flat tax, his inexperience which led one Dole ad to criticise Mr. Forbes for his "risky and untested" ideas. And in an effort to criticise both the manner in which Mr. Forbes' has risen and remind the voters of how Mr. Forbes inherited his wealth, Mr. Dole has noted that "This office is not for sale.... You've got to get it the old-fashioned way — you've got to earn it."

With Mr. Forbes surging forward in key states, the media is also beginning to take note of the wealthy challenger. First came the big build-up (cover stories in major news weeklies and flattering interviews on television), but now the research divisions of the major papers will work to unearth what they can about his background.

One Dole supporter commented on this process by saying: "First they (the media) love him (Forbes) and use him for his nuisance value. They'll trash him when he gets too close."

What is not certain is whether the candidates' counter-attacks and anticipated media exposure will take effect soon enough to stop Mr. Forbes' surge and save Mr. Dole's campaign. Or, since Mr. Dole's campaign was based on thin popular support anyway, can Mr. Dole recover? Will yet another Republican emerge from the pack to take the lead in the later states?

At this point, none of the answers are clear, or even clearly hinted. As one Republican party official told me: "We are certainly entering a dark tunnel. A week ago we thought we knew where we were going. Now everything has changed."

That outlook may be too bleak, but what is clear is that the Republican race is going to be far more competitive and interesting than was formerly expected.

Mr. Dole has begun to use all of his assets in an effort to come back in Iowa and New Hampshire. New Hampshire's popular Republican governor is now vigorously campaigning for Mr. Dole and attacking Mr. Forbes. In Iowa, where grass-roots mobilisation remains the key to victory, Mr. Dole is counting on the organisation he overhauled after his disappointing finish in the straw poll last fall to overcome the Forbes challenge.

Mr. Dole, once the undisputed leader, has found that his support was strong but very thin. Now that he has slipped, his campaign finds that it cannot coast to victory — it must fight hard if their candidate is to recover and win.

## Thinking locally, acting globally

By John Perry Barlow

IN EARLY JANUARY, a prosecutor in Munich managed, almost casually, to strike a global blow against freedom of expression. Though he is a person of such obscurity that most of the accounts I've read of this incident didn't even mention his name, he has been able to constrict the information flow for some 4 million people in 140 countries.

He did this merely by telling CompuServe, the world's second largest online-service provider, that it was breaking Bavarian law by giving Germans access to Usenet discussion groups believed to include explicit sexuality. A strangely terrified CompuServe responded by removing any newsgroups whose title contained the word sex, gay or erotic, thus blocking access to all subscribers, not just those in Germany. Given the centralised nature of its operations — and the decentralised nature of Usenet — this was, according to CompuServe, the only way it could comply.

Thus were CompuServe subscribers prevented from further discourse on whatever they talk about

in alt.sex.bestiality, hamster, duct-tape (which may exceed even my high squeamishness threshold). At the same time, however, they were also barred from alt.religion-sexuality (a pretty chaste topic), clari.news.sex (which redistributes wire-service stories) and alt.sex.marsha-clark (the mind reels...).

Once again, the jackboots of the Industrial Era can be heard stomping cluelessly around the Infobahn. In fact, the Germans did almost nothing to stop the flow of sexual materials. The newsgroups that CompuServe removed are still active on millions of computers worldwide. CompuServe subscribers in Bavaria or anywhere else can simply switch to a less timid online service and reenter the discussion. As Internet pioneer John Gilmore once said: "The Net interprets censorship as damage and routes around it."

Such assaults are most likely to injure the large service providers, sober institutions more culturally attuned to their governmental attackers than the info-guerrillas of cyberspace. CompuServe, for its cowardice in folding without a fight, probably deserves the calumny

heaped on it by angry users. The company says it hopes to reopen access to all but its German subscribers as soon as it can figure out how.

But the issue at stake here is larger than whether the good people of Munich can prevent others, half a world away, from looking at pictures of sexually misused hamsters. These apparently trivial struggles may in fact be the opening fissures of a historical discontinuity.

The real issue is control. The Internet is too widespread to be easily dominated by any single government. By creating a seamless global-economic zone, borderless and unregulatable, the Internet calls into question the very idea of a nation-state. No wonder nation-states are rushing to get their levers of control into cyberspace while less than 1 per cent of the world's population is online.

What the Net offers is the promise of a new social space, global and antisovereign, within which anybody, anywhere can express to the rest of humanity whatever he or she believes without fear. There is in these new media a foreshadowing of the intellectual and eco-

nomie liberty that might undo all the authoritarian powers on earth.

That's why Germany, the People's Republic of China and the U.S. are girding to fight the Net, using the popular distaste for prurience as their longest lever. After all, who is willing to defend depictions of sexual intercourse with children and animals? Moving through the U.S. Congress right now is a telecommunications-reform bill that would impose fines of as much as \$100,000 for "indecent" in cyberspace.

Indecent (as opposed to obscene) material is clearly protected in print by the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment, and a large percentage of the printed material currently available to Americans, whether it be James Joyce's Ulysses or much of what's in Cosmopolitan magazine, could be called indecent. As would my saying, right here, right now, that this bill is full of shit.

Somewhat Americans lost such protections in broadcast media, where coarse language is strictly regulated. The bill would hold expression on the Net to the same standards of purity, using far harsher criminal sanctions —

including jail terms — to enforce them. Moreover, it would attempt to impose those standards on every human who communicates electronically, whether in Memphis or Mongolia. Sounds crazy, but it's true.

If the U.S. succeeds in censoring the Net, it will be in a position to achieve far more than smut reduction. Any system of control that can stop us from writing dirty words online is a system that can control our collective conversation in other, more important ways. If the nation-states perfect such methods, they may own enough of the mind of mankind to perpetuate themselves far beyond their usefulness.

If that sounds overstated to you, consider the millions of people one prosecutor in Germany was able to mute with little more than an implied threat.

John Perry Barlow, a former Grateful Dead lyricist, co-founded the Electronic Frontier Foundation, which defends civil liberties in cyberspace. He lives in Wyoming and New York and at barlow@eff.org. The article is reprinted from Time magazine.

It occurred to me ... Rubber-stamposis

By Ali Kassay

AS ONE of the broad mass of people whose interest in, and knowledge of, human psychology would have to grow to be even cursory, I still have my moments of weakness, when I wonder if Freud did not have a point after all. I mean, certain aspects of human behaviour remain inexplicable even if one contrives to identify successfully the cause and effect.

Take for instance the mutation that occurs when a person is appointed in the Civil Status Department. Up to that point, he is probably a caring family man, a normal human being with his fair share of brain power, and a reasonable capacity to exercise logic. But from the moment when he is entrusted with a ball point pen and a rubber stamp, he goes berserk.

Now we have identified the cause of the aberrant behaviour, and its effect. However, diagnosing what goes on in the human mind to produce such a complete departure from normal reasonable behaviour, is a question that defies logic.

At first, one attempts to find explanation in terms of environmental conditions. But this is a universal phenomenon that transcends political and cultural borders. Take, for instance the case of the Western diplomat, serving in a Western country other than his own, who went to the civil status department of the host country to register the birth of his son. The proud father was informed, much to his amazement, that he could not have a birth certificate issued for his progeny unless he produced a certificate attesting to his own non-existence.

This story took place in one of the major industrialised, and technology transferring countries. Compare it, just to prove the point, with what happened in Jordan a year and a half ago, when I went to the civil status department to procure a death certificate for my late father. The officer in question requested a certificate that the deceased was exempted from military service.

Ironically, the affliction seems contagious because, after even such a brief exposure to the rubber stamp, it did not occur to me to ask the officer if he had taken leave of his senses, and what possible penalty could be meted even on a deserter, who has the cunning to perish before the long arm of the law gets the better of him. Instead I merely asked for clarification, whether he meant an exemption from the Jordanian or Ottoman military, since my father had been born in Amman in 1904, and therefore he had been an Ottoman citizen before gaining the Jordanian nationality.

It was interesting enough to notice that the symptoms did not last. Once outside, and after a few deep inhalations of fresh air, it dawned on me what an awfully unnecessary waste of time I had undergone, and I reverted to the everyday behaviour of normal citizens, in cursing the day that brought me to a bureaucratic office.

Clearly, the cause is the rubber stamp. A short exposure to this object causes only a temporary lapse into the absurd, while prolonged contact causes permanent effects, which need to be treated through administrative reform. The data available is incomplete, but it should be sufficient for the Medical Association to register the disease, rubber-stamposis. With some luck we may even get some aid money to research it.

By Gary Reg...

REUTERS

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## Voices from the 'loony bin' demystify madness

By Gary Regenstein  
Reuters

**BUENOS AIRES** — They have a correspondent on Mars, one who dispatches news from "above heaven" and yet another who dubs himself the emperor of paranoia.

No, this is no ordinary radio broadcast transmitted from behind the faded pink walls of Borda Hospital in Buenos Aires.

This is "loony radio."

In one of Argentina's largest psychiatric wards, patients have been producing their own radio programme for five years as therapy, and to help demystify madness to those outside.

Radio La Colifata, loony radio in Argentine slang, is taped Saturdays and broadcast to Borda's 1,300 patients. Extracts are played by a dozen mainstream radio stations.

"The insane are rejected and marginalised by society. This puts a human voice on people who in the past were silent in the community," said Alfredo Olivera, the 29-year-old founder and coordinator of the programme. "It is a link between the inside and outside. We want to break the stigma and this helps them feel less excluded from society."

Participating patients, most of whom are psychotic, wander in and out of delirium but, in more lucid moments, touchingly express their anguish, their needs and their hopes.

On a recent Saturday, about 15 patients congregated around an old wood-

en table with rudimentary broadcast equipment in a courtyard of the institution that becomes a makeshift studio.

One by one, they introduce themselves. Ever, a Bolivian Indian, reports from "above heaven" but when he descends from his delirium he comments on more earthly issues punctuated with words in his native Quechua tongue.

Garces, who dabbles in homespun philosophy, invented the radio's name and describes himself as the "emperor of paranoia" because "I am more schizophrenic than everyone."

Ramon Arturo summons memories of battle in the Falklands war against Britain, but also recites folklore and informs a visitor he won the Nobel Prize some years ago.

Alfredo, given the microphone, will only sing.

Angel is the creator of the Borda tango club.

On Mars, the correspondent there reports, there is only love. But on earth, he says, there is only war, hunger, cold, sadness and pain.

There is a romantic segment of the show in which patients sing ballads, followed by the news when they read and debate newspaper headlines, and interview each other.

One laments his family has stopped visiting him. "You are not alone," another reassures him. "You have 1,300 family members here."

During the two-hour programme they will smoke

frantically. Some wander away and then drift back again.

One Colifata success story is Adolfo, a patient who was accredited to cover Boca Juniors soccer club on Sundays. He was discharged but continued to cover matches. Now he has stopped coming because he no longer needs Borda as a crutch.

"It's a way to leap across the wall," said Mickey, one patient who actively participates. "It's a link to society."

Mr. Olivera arrived at Borda in 1990 as a 24-year-old psychology student to volunteer his time.

"I arrived with fear and expectation. I was moved, overwhelmed by the state of abandonment," he said. "These people instil fear in people. In me they produced tenderness."

The radio idea came a year later when a station asked him to field public questions about Borda. He thought there was no one better than the patients to articulate their concerns.

That led to a regular weekly Borda column. The Panamerican Health Organisation recognised it as the first radio in the world to broadcast from a psychiatric hospital.

Many stations that rebroadcast the programme are community outlets, but some are top-rated commercial channels.

The hospital is indifferent, Mr. Olivera said, not obstructing the show but not helping. He brings the equipment by bus every Saturday with his wife, psy-

chologist Maria Celia Vieira. One radio station donated an antenna and others compact discs.

"It's a marvellous project," said Mariana Manna, executive producer on an Am del Plata show that with a million listeners is one of Argentina's top-rated slots, and which uses the Colifata reports. "It's heartbreaking."

"These are human beings and this helps them to feel not like animals. They have things to say which are not so crazy. They say things or ask questions we wouldn't dare say or ask."

Ms. Manna is at a loss to explain radio La Colifata's success with the public. "The question is whether they feel sorry for them or identify with some of the things they are saying."

"If family and friends don't come," another Colifata commentator counsels his fellow patients, "it's not because they can't come but because they don't want to, not for lack of time or opportunity but because of lack of interest."

"I feel alone in the inside of my body," muses Mickey, in a broadcast whose rambling style belies an anguished determination to return to the world outside.

"Enough of sorrow, try to live a phase of joy and happiness, try to get my house, make a couple and once and for all be a new trouble-free person, start from zero so things go well, leave behind the past or I will never triumph in life. These are difficult moments but I must overcome them."

## Muslim refugees in Serbia fear to go home

By Jovan Kovacic  
Reuters

**SLJIVOVICA**, Yugoslavia — Peace in Bosnia has brought with it new fears for hundreds of Muslim men who fled eastern Bosnia last year and sought refuge among Serbs.

The men, living under U.N. protection in a rough camp at Sljivovica in western Serbia near the Bosnian border, are frightened to go home.

Survivors of the Bosnian Serb offensives that overran the former U.N. "safe areas" of Srebrenica and Zepa last year, the group fears prosecution by the Muslim-led Bosnian government army for desertion.

They want Western European countries to give them asylum and are embittered by the reluctance to offer them refuge despite the efforts of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Bosnian army spokesman Ferid Buljasic denied the men could be jailed if they return and insisted they were covered by an amnesty expected to be passed through parliament soon.

But for the moment, the UNHCR accepts the men's concern and is appealing to the conscience of Western European governments already wrestling with the burdens of unemployment and budget deficits to take the men in.

Tina Andersen of the UNHCR in Belgrade said:

"Resettlement to third countries is the only option... These refugees risk persecution for desertion if they return. The amnesty was just a declaration. We cannot accept that — it must be followed by laws to inspire confidence."

So far 230 Sljivovica inmates have reached the west, 229 have been promised asylum but are waiting to leave and 337 cases are pending.

"I just want to go, I am desperate. All of us here have suffered terribly through 3-1/2 years of siege, and now we are left here to rot by the West," Sabirja Cesko said.

Ms. Cesko and the others fled Bosnian Serb assaults on Srebrenica and Zepa knowing they would almost certainly die if they were captured.

The International Committee of the Red Cross has acknowledged that 8,000 people from Srebrenica, mostly Muslim men, are missing. It said 3,000 were removed from Potocari prison camp while 5,000 others tried to break through Serb lines in the wooded mountains but never reached Bosnian government-held territory.

Most of the missing are feared dead and survivors alleged that thousands were killed in mass executions carried out by the Serbs in the days following the fall of the town.

The Bosnian Serbs sent women and children in

buses from the enclaves to government-held Tuzla.

Samir Cocalic, a former officer in Zepa, said: "We had to head for Serbia because the way to (Muslim) Gorazde was blocked and it would have been sheer madness to risk the route through Bosnian Serb lines towards Tuzla."

His superiors escaped to Zenica and left his company as a decoy for Bosnian Serbs on the cliffs overlooking the fast and deep Drina River bordering Serbia.

"Most of my men had to jump and swim across. Some drowned in the strong current, but we made it," he said.

"Now I do not know whether back home they will treat me as a prisoner or deserter. But I know one thing — they deserted me and my men. Now that we have survived, I also worry what our commanders will do to prevent us from speaking out," he said.

He said the early days at the Sljivovica camp near Uzice, 200 km west of Belgrade, were not pleasant but that the situation improved within weeks.

Red Cross officials complained to the Yugoslav government about the behaviour of some guards and abuses were stopped.

The camp commander, who did not want to be identified, said armed guards patrolling the perimeter of the camp were warned they would be pun-

ished for any breach of discipline.

According to western diplomats in Belgrade, Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic refused demands by the Bosnian Serb army Commander General Ratko Mladic to return the Muslims.

The UNHCR is running this show, giving them three meals a day prepared by their own cook, hospital treatment and a postal and money transfer service," the commander said.

Inmate Edhem Bajic, interviewed out of earshot of camp authorities, said: "We have no problem with the guards. They are good to us. This is no hotel but we are fed, clean and warm. It is the uncertainty regarding our future that is driving us insane."

The camp commander said he was worried about the morale of the inmates which the UNHCR acknowledges is very poor.

"They have had enough of being kept here and of promises they would be resettled in the East. Some have even threatened suicide if their problems are not solved quickly," he added.

"For the last four years I have not watched television, listened to the radio, have not been in a shop," one inmate said. "The war is over, the threat is gone, but I feel like I am still under siege."

## Sudan defers presidential elections

KHARTOUM (AP) — Sudan delayed elections for president and parliament Tuesday to allow more people time to enter the race.

The elections, Sudan's first since 1986, were to run from March 1 to March 13, but the elections committee said they would be postponed until March 6 "to give more chance for candidates to come up with their presidential election forms."

The elections will now end March 17, and results will be announced March 20, state-run radio said Tuesday. The deadline for submitting applications was moved from Tuesday to Saturday.

There were complaints in Sudanese newspapers that the March 1 date did not give enough time for campaigning or for organising the vote in a country with bad roads and poor communications.

Voters will elect a president and 275 members of the 400-seat parliament. The other members were chosen last month by the government-sponsored National Congress, which represents grass-roots groups throughout the country, Africa's largest.

Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Al Bashir, Sudan's military leader, is almost sure to win the presidential race. So far, he faces a handful of little-known candidates, including a swimmer, a southern Sudanese politician and two university lecturers.

One of the main opposition figures is former prime minister Sadeq Al Mahdi, who Gen. Bashir overthrew in a 1989 coup.

But Mr. Mahdi has said he will not enter the contest because he fears there will be vote-rigging and fraud and that security officials will harass his supporters.

The election is "only to better the image of the regime," he told an independent newspaper in Khartoum.

Southern rebels are also boycotting the vote. They have been battling since 1983 for more autonomy for Christians and adherents of tribal faiths in southern Sudan. More than 1.3 million people have died in the fighting and in famines caused by the war.



DIRECT SUPERVISION: Her Royal Highness Princess Basma on Tuesday visits the town of Hisban outside Amman as part of a supervision and inspection drive over a charity drive she launched for the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development to help the needy in the beginning of the Holy Month of Ramadan (Petra photo)

## Syrian-Israeli talks to resume

(Continued from page 1)

"If peace should ever be realised between Syria and Israel — and that is still a big if — even after the Maryland negotiations — it will be a big achievement by Christopher," he said.

"The current shuttle may be looked at as the last stroke before a long and deep freeze if nothing happens from now on to the election time in both Israel and the United States," where presidential polls are due in November.

The Syrian ruling party's daily, Al Baath, charged that by seeking early elections Israel had "created new obstacles to hinder U.S. peace efforts."

"Israel cannot run away forever from peace. No matter who is in power, a labour or a Likud leader, sooner or later Israel will have to accept this reality," and agree to pull out from the Golan, it said.

Mr. Peres said meanwhile that Israel was willing to withdraw its troops from southern Lebanon even before a peace treaty is reached with Syria.

"If there would be a real attempt on part of the Lebanese government and the Lebanese army to guarantee that there will be just one government, just one army, and peace and security, Israel would not wait for negotiations with the Syrians, we would withdraw before it," he said.

Mr. Peres, speaking to journalists during a five-hour tour of the Israeli-imposed "security zone" in South Lebanon, added: "The problem is that in Lebanon you have armed groups that don't take orders from the central government, like Hizbollah."

## PLO decides to draft new charter

(Continued from page 12)

some have ties to the Palestinian diaspora.

The PLO also reaffirmed that it was the highest Palestinian authority, taking precedence over the legislative council for the self-rule areas elected on Jan. 20.

"The PLO remains the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people inside and outside" the territories, the PLO Executive Committee said at the end of a two-day meeting.

The executive committee said it would set up an ad hoc committee to guide relations between the new self-rule authorities and the PLO "in line with respect for the PLO as sole representative of the Palestinian people."

Mr. Arafat said on his return to Gaza that the talks in Al Arish were "very constructive and fruitful."

"We discussed many issues related to the final status negotiations, including Jerusalem, refugees, the settlements and borders," the PLO chairman said.

"I hope the PNC will convene as soon as possible," he added, without giving any indication of a date.

At least one executive member said Israel would have to meet certain conditions before the PNC was convened.

"All (PLO) Executive Committee members who attended the meeting agreed there should be a new charter instead of just amending the old one, but there is still no decision," Ali Ishak, a member of the executive, told Reuters.

"This new charter will be based on establishment of a Palestinian state, the right of refugees to return and borders," he said.

Mr. Ishak said the executive attached conditions to calling the PNC into session. "This includes release of Palestinian prisoners from Israeli jails, a halt to Jewish settlement activities and concluding redeployment from Hebron and other Palestinian areas in the West Bank," Mr. Ishak said.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Egypt urges Sudan to hand over suspects

**CAIRO (AP)** — Egypt urged Sudan on Tuesday to turn over three men wanted in the assassination attempt on President Hosni Mubarak, saying it risked defying the international community. The U.N. Security Council last week urged Sudan to hand over the suspects, and the United States announced it was withdrawing all Americans from its embassy because of security concerns (see page 2). "Sudan should not defy international public opinion and the United Nations and deny the presence of any of those involved in its territories," Foreign Minister Amr Musa told reporters. "It must not ignore resolutions because these are dangerous matters. It is not in Egypt's interest that Sudan find itself in a worse situation that it already is in," Mr. Musa added. Soon after the June 26 attempt, Egypt accused Sudan of involvement, and relations soured badly. Sudan has denied a role and says it knows nothing about the whereabouts of the men.

### WFP steps up aid to Afghanistan

**ISLAMABAD (AP)** — The World Food Programme (WFP) announced Tuesday that it will increase its food shipments to Afghanistan's devastated capital, where most people live in the ruins of a protracted civil war, shattered by daily rocket attacks and a bitterly cold winter. The increase means the WFP will be able to feed 250,000 of Kabul's poorest and hungriest, said Klaus Klavitter, WFP country director for Afghanistan. Runaway food prices and an unusually harsh winter prompted the WFP to increase the number of people eligible for its food aid, he said. As a result the WFP will be feeding nearly one-third of the city's total population of 750,000. Mr. Klavitter said the WFP has enough food in storage to carry it through the winter.

### 5,121 candidates for Iran's parliament elections

**TEHRAN (R)** — A total of 5,121 candidates have registered to run in elections on March 8 for Iran's 270-seat parliament, Tehran Radio said on Monday night. It said 914 candidates registered to run for 30 seats in the capital Tehran while 30 people are contesting four seats designated for non-Muslims. A spokesman for an opposition grouping told Reuters that 13 nationalist and liberal Islamic candidates had registered to run. They are mostly from the illegal but tolerated Freedom Movement and the National Front who had boycotted three earlier elections to protest against what they say is a lack of freedom to campaign.

### One wounded in Shiite clashes in Lebanon

**TYRE (AFP)** — One person was wounded in clashes between rival Shiite Muslim groups in a village of South Lebanon near Israel's self-declared "security zone," police said Tuesday. They said Syrian-backed Amal and Iranian-backed Hizbollah fighters traded mortar, anti-tank rocket and automatic weapons fire in Kafra late Monday until the Lebanese army and a joint committee intervened. A Hizbollah militiaman was wounded and a U.N. peacekeeper from the Nepalese contingent deployed in the area had a narrow escape with a bullet lodged in his back-jacket. It was the worst clash for more than a year between the two groups, both of which oppose Israel's occupation of the border zone.

### Morocco bans berber culture show

**RABAT (R)** — Morocco's Human Rights Association (AMDH) on Monday denounced a government ban on a Berber cultural show and said this violated the constitution and basic principles of free speech. AMDH said the authorities gave no reason for banning the show last month by the independent Berber group, the Association Nouvelle pour la Culture et les Arts Populaires (ANCAP). "This decision violates the constitutional and basic principles of free speech. We denounced this behaviour which has occurred in the past," AMDH said. A spokesman for ANCAP said this was the fourth time the Interior Ministry had banned a public activity by the Berber group and noted that it had no political motive. Officials at the human rights ministry were not available for comment.

### King to visit S. Arabia on Sunday

(Continued from page 1)

Royal Jordanian, the Kingdom's national flag carrier, is also seeking to resume flights to Kuwait soon.

Dr. Muasher said the King's meetings with the Saudi leaders were in line with Jordan's consistent policy of seeking excellent relations with all Arab countries, particularly the countries of Arab Gulf.

The very appointment of Mr. Kabarti as prime minister is seen partly owed to the success he scored as foreign minister in achieving breakthroughs in Jordan's efforts to settle differences with the

Gulf states.

The information minister said the King would also visit Egypt upon an invitation from President Hosni Mubarak. He did not set a date for the visit.

It was not immediately clear whether Mr. Mubarak's invitation to the King was to a tripartite summit reportedly proposed by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, who is seeking wide Arab support and Jordanian and Egyptian backing in particular for the Palestinian strategy in "final status" negotiations with Israel on the future of the West Bank and Gaza Strip beginning in May.

### Crown Prince urges interaction

(Continued from page 1)

problems among Jordanians across the country. Crimes, and crimes of honour in particular, their causes and dimensions, are not known to the public.

"Will the youth issues come to an end? The murder of a girl by her brother (is still occurring) at a time when we are about to enter the 21st century. What do we know about the lives of people and their suffering? What do we know about crimes?" the Crown Prince said. "There should be a nucleus for the exchange of information and knowledge."

"The absence of logic and philosophy from our curriculum should be examined if we want to expand the horizon of the inter-information revolution," the Crown Prince added at the meeting, which was also attended by university presidents and professors.

"We should be calling on universities and research centres to work as one team... there should be a qualitative leap in changing the social conduct," he said.

"We wish all the success for the new government in its efforts to bring change," he added.

### Iraq, U.N. open oil talks

(Continued from page 1)

an interview with the Central Bank Governor Isam Hweish in which he predicted that sanctions were about to fizzle out.

"The end of the embargo is inevitable and is coming soon," Mr. Hweish told the paper.

Iraqis are also anxious but hopeful that the talks would result in an easing of the embargo.

Their optimism was fuelled by a spectacular recovery in the national currency's level against the dollar and a massive reduction in prices of food since Iraq announced on Jan. 19 that it was prepared to discuss the issue.

"Our hope is that these negotiations will put an end to our problems," said Ahmad Fares, a retired civil servant, summing up the feelings of many in the streets of Baghdad.

"I think these negotiations will end the all-embracing embargo," Fares, a father-of-five, added.

In the past few days the rate of the dinar against the dollar has fluctuated wildly, reflecting nervousness on the markets and in the government-controlled banks.

The dinar, which was trading at 3,000 to the dollar before Jan. 19, rose to 450 on Sunday before dropping to 650 on Monday and rising again to 550 against the greenback on Tuesday. It was valued at three to the dollar before the August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

"These changes are signs of an impending lifting of the embargo. The international situation is good at present," said Abu Salah, another optimist in the streets of the capital.













Jennifer Capriati

## Capriati to return to tennis

PARIS (AP) — Jennifer Capriati will make her first tournament appearance since November 1994 at next week's Paris Open, organisers announced Monday.

Capriati was granted a wild card for the Feb. 13-18 event at the Coubertin arena. Capriati, 19, left the Tour after losing in the first round of the U.S. Open in 1993.

She returned to school, dropped out, and was arrested in the spring of 1994 for marijuana possession. A teen-ager arrested with her claimed she also had been using heroin, an allegation Capriati never denied.

Capriati went for treatment in two drug rehabilitation clinics, then attempted a comeback at a tournament in Philadelphia in November 1994. She lost in the first round to Anke Huber and has not played since.

"She feels ready physically and mentally after a long period of preparation in Florida," Paris Open organisers said in a statement.

Huber and former Australian Open champion Mary Pierce are the top entries in the Paris tournament. The 28-player field also includes Iva Majoli, Jana Novotna and Martina Hingis.

Steffi Graf was originally seeded No. 1 but had to withdraw last week because she is still recovering from foot surgery.

Capriati beat Graf to win the Olympic gold medal at the 1992 Barcelona Games. She was ranked No. 6 in the world in 1993, and reached the semifinals at the French Open in 1990, and Wimbledon and the U.S. Open in 1991.

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Italian footballers threaten strike

ROME (AFP) — Sergio Campana president of the Italian professional footballers association threatened here on Monday that his members would strike on March 17. Juventus' former Italian international striker Gianluca Vialli said the players were fed up at not being consulted by their ruling body. "We are always the last to learn anything," "It's not democratic. We want to take part in the decisions being taken and to give our opinion on the matters being discussed."

### McCarthy to be named Ireland manager

DUBLIN (AP) — Former Ireland international Mick McCarthy, manager of first-division English team Millwall, is the choice to succeed Jack Charlton as manager of Ireland's national team. McCarthy, who was Irish captain under Charlton, was to be officially named Monday by the Irish Football Association, just two days before his 37th birthday. Charlton resigned after almost 10 years on the job following a 2-0 loss in December against the Netherlands that eliminated Ireland from June's European Championships in England. McCarthy had 57 international appearances with Ireland and captained the team to the quarterfinals of the 1990 World Cup in Italy. Like Charlton, McCarthy was born in Northern England, and like many players on Ireland's national side, he qualified to play through parentage. McCarthy's first game in charge of Ireland will be a home exhibition next month against Russia.

### Villeneuve crashes in testing

RESTON, Va. (AP) — Williams Renault's new driver Canadian Jacques Villeneuve crashed during testing here on Monday. The Canadian, 1995 Indy Car champion, had completed just three laps when he crashed. The crash damaged the nose cone of the car and the side wing deflators. "Villeneuve said: 'I went through a puddle and lost control. It was my fault. The Canadian, son of the late legendary Ferrari driver Gilles Villeneuve, was signed by boss Frank Williams during the 1995 season to replace Scotsman David Coulthard, now with McLaren."

### Ceron to defend London marathon title

LONDON (R) — Dionicio Ceron on Mexico and Poland's Malgorzata Sobanska will defend their London marathon titles on April 21 against a record entry of 39,000 runners, the organisers said on Tuesday. Ceron, world championship silver medallist last year, is going for a hat-trick after becoming the first man to win the event twice with his second successive victory last year in the second fastest time ever recorded over the London course. Sobanska won the women's title last year by just 10 seconds from Manuela Machado of Portugal in the closest ever finish to the event.

### Bremen, De Mos finally part company

BREMEN (R) — Aad de Mos finally parted company with Werder Bremen on Monday when he and the Bundesliga side that sacked him last month agreed a financial settlement that ended a running courtroom battle, legal sources said. Officials would not reveal details of the settlement reached during a closed-door hearing at Bremen's labour court. "Both parties knew how far apart we were. Today we took the final step," the Dutchman's lawyer, Mathias Prinz, told reporters without giving away any figures. Prinz had originally said he would try to have De Mos reinstated. De Mos's woes at Bremen — languishing in 15th place at the season's half-way mark after finishing second last season — began after Der Spiegel magazine said he had told a Belgian journalist that Bremen would never achieve anything.

### Erhardt is Jets' offensive coordinator

NEW YORK (R) — Ron Erhardt, the former Pittsburgh Steelers' offensive coordinator, was hired on Monday for the same job with the New York Jets. The Jets also named another former Steelers' coach, Pat Hodgson, as tight ends coach. Erhardt said last Thursday the Steelers had not offered him a new contract, despite guiding an offence that scored an AFC-high 407 points last season. Jets head coach Rich Kotite was the offensive coordinator last season, but decided to relinquish the offensive duties for a team that ranked last in the NFL in total offence.

## Branco to join Juninho at Middlesbrough

LONDON (AP) — Brazilian star Branco arrived in England on Monday to join his countryman Juninho at Premier League club Middlesbrough.

"Juninho is very happy here and said he would like me to come and play with him," the World Cup defender said. "We've played together before in the national squad and we are good

friends. That is the main reason why I settled on Middlesbrough."

"I had a few offers from other English clubs and also from teams in Japan, America and Spain. But I decided I wanted to play with Juninho."

Branco said the standard of play in England had also influenced his decision.

"I wanted to come here because England has one of the best leagues in the world," he said. "So I am very excited about it."

Branco spoke after arriving at Heathrow Airport with wife, Stella, before heading directly to Middlesbrough.

Middlesbrough has lost six straight league games, including a 5-0 hammering by

Chelsea on Saturday.

Manager Bryan Robson is looking to shore up his injury-hit club. Juninho has missed two consecutive games with a knee injury.

The 31-year-old Branco would not cost a fee, having bought out his contract at Brazilian club Internacional. But Robson admitted a large salary demand might cause

problems.

Robson's fortunes at Middlesbrough began to sour last month at about the same time he was mentioned as the favorite to succeed Terry Venables as England coach.

"I'm fed up with saying it, but I've not even been offered the job and even if I was it is the wrong time for me," Robson said.

## Blazers beat Toronto in final 10th of a second

TORONTO (R) — Portland guard James Robinson fired in a three-pointer with one-tenth of a second left in the game to give the Trail Blazers a 90-87 victory over the Toronto Raptors Monday.

Toronto rookie Damon Stoudamire had tied the game at 87-87 with a layup with 22 seconds to go before Rod Strickland penetrated the lane, then kicked it out to an open Robinson at the top of the arc for the game-winner.

"It feels pretty good. It's my second one," said Robinson, who also hit the deciding basket in a 109-108 win over the Lakers on Nov. 21. "The first one in L.A. was at the buzzer, but this was also very exciting."

"We anticipated him taking a free throw. We just broke down defensively on that play," Toronto coach Brendan Malone said. "We didn't want an open shot like that to occur."

"We let them hang around, that's why we lost. They went to Rod Strickland and he proved why he is one of the best one-on-one players in the game."

Strickland scored 28 points and Clifford Robinson added 25 for Portland, which had lost 11 of its last 16 road contests. The Blazers have won two in a row after dropping five of six.

Toronto led by as many as nine points midway through the fourth quarter before Portland went on a 13-3 run, and the lead went back and forth until Stoudamire's basket.

"We hung in there, which was good," Portland coach P.J. Carlesimo said. "For a lot of this game, we were scoring just to stay within six or eight points. But at the end we finally put in a good defensive stretch to stop them."

"I thought Rod was exceptional tonight. He made a good decision," on the final play.

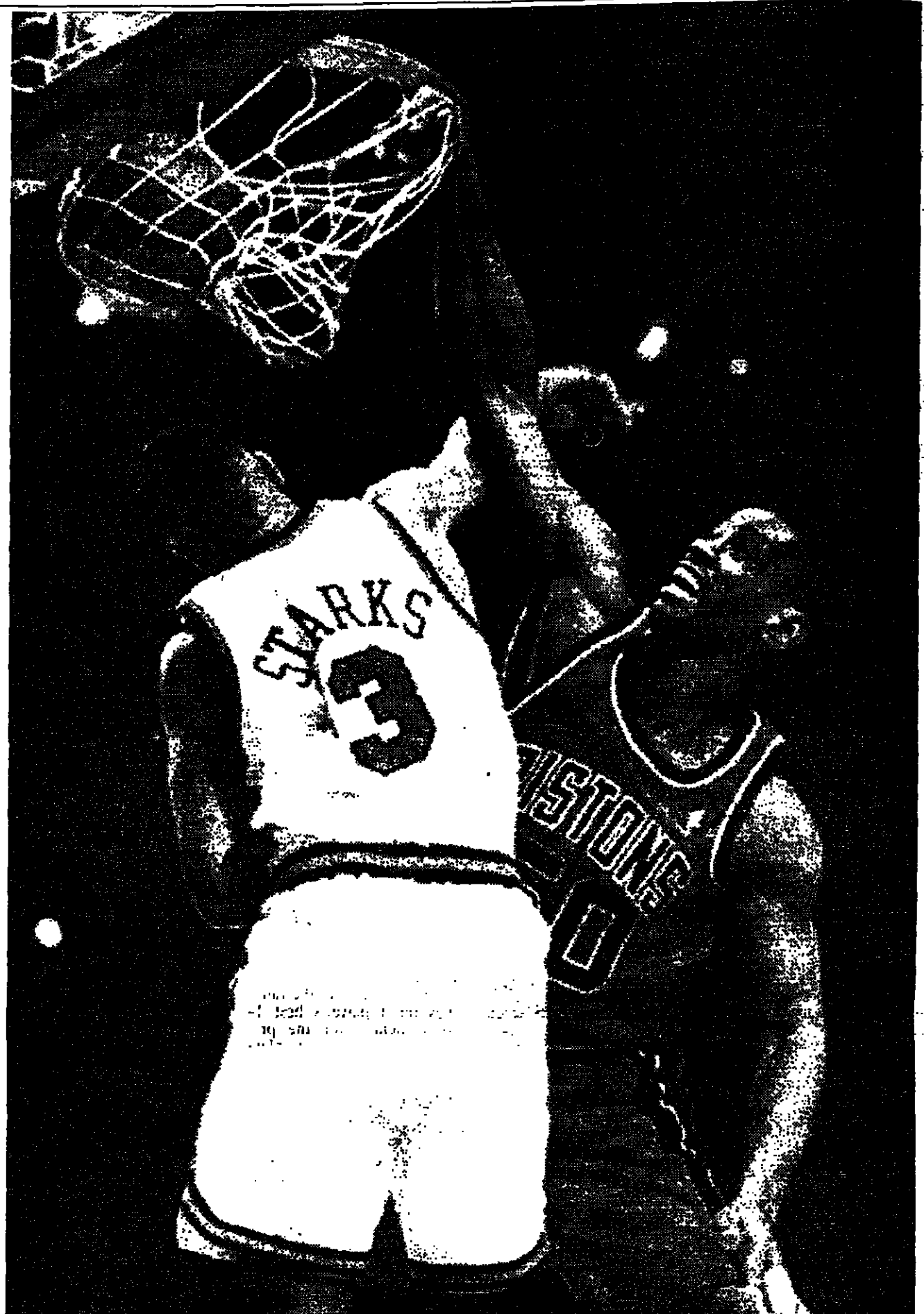
Former Blazer Tracy Murray and Stoudamire each netted 16 points for Toronto, which has lost five of its last six games.

"We're getting into a pattern of losing close games and we've got to try to break that," Stoudamire said.

In New York, Patrick Ewing scored 25 points to lift the Knicks past the Detroit Pistons 97-91 for their fifth win in six games.

Hubert Davis added 15 points and Derek Harper 14 for New York, which had five players score in double figures. The Knicks are 3-0 against the Pistons this season and have yet to trail in any of the games.

Ewing, the Knicks' all-time



Detroit Pistons' forward Otis Thorpe (right) stuffs the ball over New York Knicks' guard John Starks in the first

period of their NBA game at New York's Madison Square Garden (Reuters photo)

leading scorer, passed 19,000 career points with a basket in the first quarter.

Allan Houston led Detroit with 24 points and Don Reid added 13 for the Pistons, who have dropped five straight to New York and eight in a row at Madison Square Garden.

In Miami, Alonzo Mourning had 25 points and 11 rebounds and Rex Chapman added 24 points to lead the Heat to a 103-92 victory over the Sacramento Kings.

Kevin Willis pulled down 14 rebounds for Miami, which had lost three of its last four games.

Mitch Richmond scored 18 points and Olden Polynice had 15 seven rebounds for the Kings.

Kevin Willis pulled down 14 rebounds for Miami,

which had lost three of its last four games.

Bimbo Coles chipped in 20 points and six assists for Miami, which held a 49-37 rebounding edge.

At Minnesota, Tom Gugliotta scored 11 of his 22 points in the fourth quarter and Sam Mitchell added 10 of his 20 in the period as the Timberwolves beat the Dallas Mavericks for the second time in three days, 104-92.

Christian Laettner scored 20 points and Isiah Rider added 21 for the Timberwolves, who have won all three meetings against the Mavericks this season.

Jason Kidd had 22 points and nine assists, Jim Jackson scored 21 points and George McCloud added 17 for Dallas, which was outscored 50-

24 in the paint and fell to 6-16 on the road.

In Vancouver, Karl Malone scored 31 points including two three-point plays in a 12-6 third-quarter run as the Utah Jazz defeated the Grizzlies 92-83 for their fifth win six games.

Jeff Hornacek added 18 for the Jazz, who won't meet the Grizzlies again until the playoffs.

Byron Scott scored 19 points and Anthony Avent added 14 for expansion Van-

couver, which has lost five straight games and six of its last eight at home.

In Los Angeles, rookie Joe Smith had 25 points and 16 rebounds and tipped in a miss with 19 seconds left, giving the Golden State Warriors the lead for good in a 128-124 victory over the Clippers.

Latrell Sprewell added 24 points and Chris Gatling 20 off the bench for the Warriors, who have won three straight.

RESULTS			
Portland	90	Toronto	87
Miami	103	Sacramento	92
New York	97	Detroit	91
Minnesota	104	Dallas	92
Utah	92	Vancouver	83
Golden State	128	LA Clippers	124

## Six elected to Basketball Hall of Fame

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (R) — George Gervin, Gail Goodrich and David Thompson, former stars of the NBA, and Nancy Lieberman-Cline, who helped revolutionize the women's game, were elected Monday to the Basketball Hall of Fame.

Also elected were former European star Kresimir Cosic and George Yardley, a National Basketball Association star of the 1950s.

The six were selected from 20 candidates, with 18 of 24 votes from the honours committee required for induction.

Enshrinement ceremonies at the basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Massachusetts, will be May 6.

Gervin, who played in both the American Basketball Association and the NBA, was a 12-time All-Star and one of only three players in NBA history to win four or

more scoring titles. His career scoring average of 26.2 points a game is the sixth highest in NBA history.

"I really love the game and I truly put my heart and soul into it. It's natural to really hope for an honour like this," said Gervin. "It's something to tell your kids."

Thompson was a three-time All-American at North Carolina State and was College Basketball Player of the Year twice. He was named Most Valuable Player of the 1974 NCAA Championship tournament and his number 44 jersey is the only one ever retired at North Carolina State.

Thompson, who played in four NBA All-Star games and was the game's MVP in 1979, is the only player to win the award in both the NBA and ABA.

Thompson now devotes time telling young people about the dangers of drugs and

alcohol, speaking from bitter experience.

"I've had some ups and downs in my career, but by God's grace I've been able to overcome the downs. It's all behind me now," said Thompson.

"Nobody is perfect and everybody has skeletons in their closet. I'm just pleased now that as a former pro-athlete I'm in a position to be a positive influence on people's lives."

Gervin shared some of those ups and downs, including a drug problem of his own.

"It's an honour to be going in with David because we have quite a few battles on the court," Gervin said.

"Overcoming my addiction is the Hall of Fame in itself. I'm glad to be on the other side of the fence," said Gervin, one of only seven players in NBA history to score over 2,000 points in six consecu-

ive seasons.

He is one of only four players in league history to score in double figures in 400 or more games. Gervin, who had a 63-point game in 1978, is one of just 15 players to surpass 60 in a regular-season NBA game.

Goodrich led UCLA to two national championships and led the conference in scoring (21.5 ppg.) as the Bruins compiled a 30-0 record in 1964. He played 14 seasons in the NBA, where he was selected to the All-Star team five times and was a member of the Los Angeles Lakers' 1972 championship team.

Goodrich said he would ask his UCLA coach, the legendary John Wooden, to present him at the enshrinement ceremonies.

Lieberman, a three-time All-American at Old Dominion who led the school to National Championships in

1979 and 1980, played for the U.S. silver medal team at the 1976 Olympics.

Lieberman, who learned her basketball in the playgrounds of New York, remembered her Olympic tryouts: "I was boxing out. I was throwing elbows and people were looking at me like, who in the hell do you think you are?"

She became the first woman to play in a men's league when she signed with the Springfield Fame of the United States basketball league in 1986.

Cosic, who died at 46, last may from lymphoma, played at Brigham Young but made his reputation internationally, playing on four Olympic teams for the former Yugoslavia. He was a member of the silver medal team in 1968 and the gold medal team in 1980, and starred for two world championships winners.

## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF  
& TAMMAY HIRSCH  
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### ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q. 1 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

AAQ7109 TK CAJ7 AAJ85  
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one heart. What action do you take?

A - There is a school who believe that you should never make a takeout double when holding a five-card spade suit, but we can't believe that anyone would risk a mere one-spade overcall on this fine hand. We would make a takeout double and then bid spades should partner introduce another suit.

Q. 2 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

AKQ843 75432 04 AQ82

The bidding has proceeded:  
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST  
10 Pass 1A Pass  
2S Pass 2

What action do you take?  
A - You have a poor hand with shortness in partner's suit. Should you bid again and find partner is

deficient in your suit, which is highly likely, you are in -600 territory. Pass.

Q. 3 - East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:

AAK1082 7QJ 0432 AKQ3

The bidding has proceeded:  
EAST SOUTH WEST NORTH  
10 1A 2C Pass  
10 1A 2C Pass

What action do you take?  
A - What would you like to do? Partner couldn't squeak out a spade raise and your doubleton heart honors are worthless. You've done your share — pass.

Q. 4 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:

AKQJ8543 0K10 Cvoid AAQ7

The bidding has proceeded:  
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH  
10 1A 40 7

What do you bid now?  
A - No, this is not a misprint — partner did overcall one spade.

Since you'll never be able to find out exactly where partner's side strength lies, we would gamble on North having no more than one heart and jump to six spades. The slam should be no worse than on a finesse and could be laydown.

Q. 5 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:

AAK5 CAQ732 0K4 41093

Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one spade. What action do you take?

A - Your heart suit is not robust enough to overcall at the two-level, and your minor suits are not up to snuff to merit a takeout double. If you want to get into the auction, the most sensible bid is one no trump.

Q. 6 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

AQ106 72 0KJ82 AAQ854

The bidding has proceeded:  
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST  
10 1A 2A Pass  
2S Pass 7

What action do you take?  
A - Even though the potential misfit has decreased the value of your holding, you have enough to make one move toward game. Despite the singleton heart, the logical action is to bid two no trump — three diamonds would be a game force.



# Sports

February 7, 1996

**Nagano '98 organisers clear some hurdles**

NAGANO (R) — With just two years to go, organisers of the 1998 Nagano Winter Olympics cleared some hurdles on Tuesday but are still ensnared in controversy over a chronic lack of funds.

On the first day of a two-day meeting between the Nagano Olympic Organising Committee (NAOC) and the heads of the seven international winter sports federations, the committee won approval on some seating and scheduling issues which had dogged them, organisers said.

The Nagano Games, to be held from February 7 to 22, 1998, will be the biggest ever Winter Olympics with the addition of three new medal events — women's ice hockey, curling and snowboarding.

The final of the men's ice

hockey, one of the biggest draw cards of the games, was rescheduled to start at 2:00 p.m. (0500 GMT), which would make it midnight for television viewers on the east coast of the United States and Canada.

The ice hockey federation had demanded that NAOC start the final earlier given the interest among North American fans in the participation of national hockey league professionals at the winter olympics for the first time.

"We won basic approval on this new time schedule," Naokichi Nishimura, NAOC's deputy managing director, told a news conference.

NAOC also convinced the ice hockey federation over another issue — seating capacity for the main ice hockey stadium. The main stadium, contrary to its name 'big hat,' has permanent facilities for only 5,000 seats.

This would be increased to at least 10,000 using temporary seats, Nishimura said. Tickets for Nagano's ice hockey 'dream tournament,' so called because of the participation of NHL players, could become a premier item.

The meeting also agreed on seating capacity for the figure skating rink and the venue for curling.

But the two sides have yet to discuss one of the biggest pending issues — NAOC's promise to pay for the air fare of every foreign athlete and official.

In 1991 when Nagano beat Salt Lake City for the 1998



## Muster No. 1? Sampras, Agassi don't think so

ATLANTA (AP) — The mysterious ATP computer is spinning out numbers that say Thomas Muster is the best tennis player in the world. To the man he knocked from the No. 1 spot, that just shows the absurdity of the current ratings system.

"It certainly reflects the fact that you can dominate on one surface and play enough tennis to mislead a lot of people," Andre Agassi said after beating Pete Sampras in an exhibition Saturday night at the Omni.

Muster, the Austrian clay-court specialist, will become No. 1 when the new ATP ratings are released next Monday. Agassi will drop to third, while Sampras moves into the No. 2 slot.

Muster won 12 tournaments last year, including the French Open, but all but one of his victories were on clay.

"I feel like he loses to Becker every time on any surface besides clay," Agassi said. "He loses to Pete every time on any surface besides clay. He loses to Courier on every other surface besides clay, and maybe even on clay."

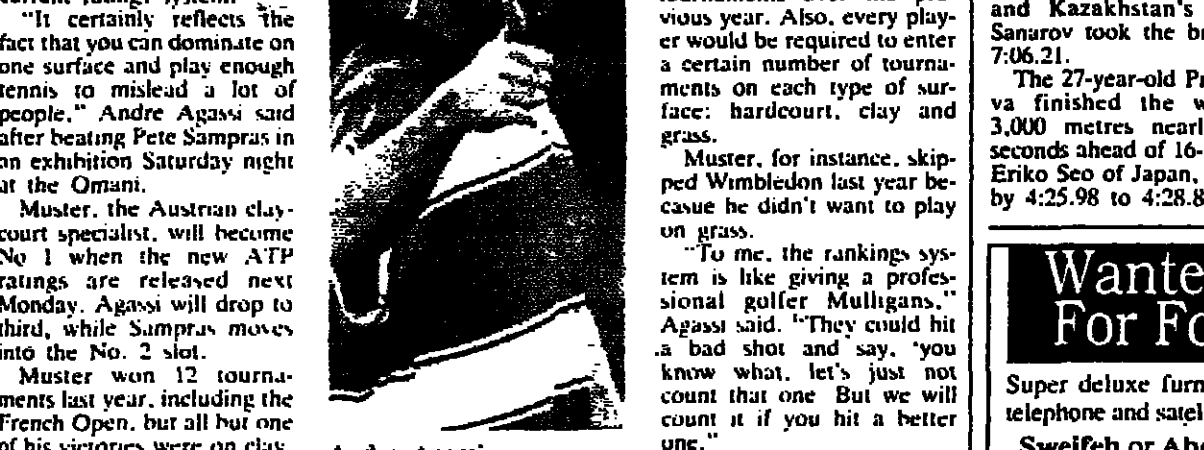
"It doesn't undermine the fact that he had to work his butt off for a year to get there on the rankings sheet. But it doesn't change the fact that I don't put him in the top 10 when it comes to surfaces outside of clay."

Agassi, who lost in the semifinals of the Australian Open, will give up the No. 1 ranking because of a quirk in the schedule. An obscure, year-old tournament in San Jose, California, is being played a week later this year, costing Agassi 204 points.

Got that? Most people don't.

"It's so confusing," said Sampras, who was No. 1 before his third-round upset in Australia at the hands of 19-year-old Mark Philippoussis. "I don't think too many people in here understand the ranking system, how it works. It took me a couple of years to figure it out."

Sampras, who won Wimbledon and the U.S. Open last year, isn't too enamored with Muster's ability, either.



Andre Agassi

Sampras added, "every time you step on the court, it should count. With the best-of-14 system, that's not the case. You can play 25 or 26 events, lose in the first round of a number of them and still have a pretty high ranking. That's not good for the game."



Pete Sampras

**Japanese, Kazakh athletes shatter Asian records**

HARBIN, China (AP) — Japan's Mitsuru Watanabe and Kazakhstan's Lioudmila Prokacheva both shattered Asian speedskating records Monday in opening races of the Asian Winter Games.

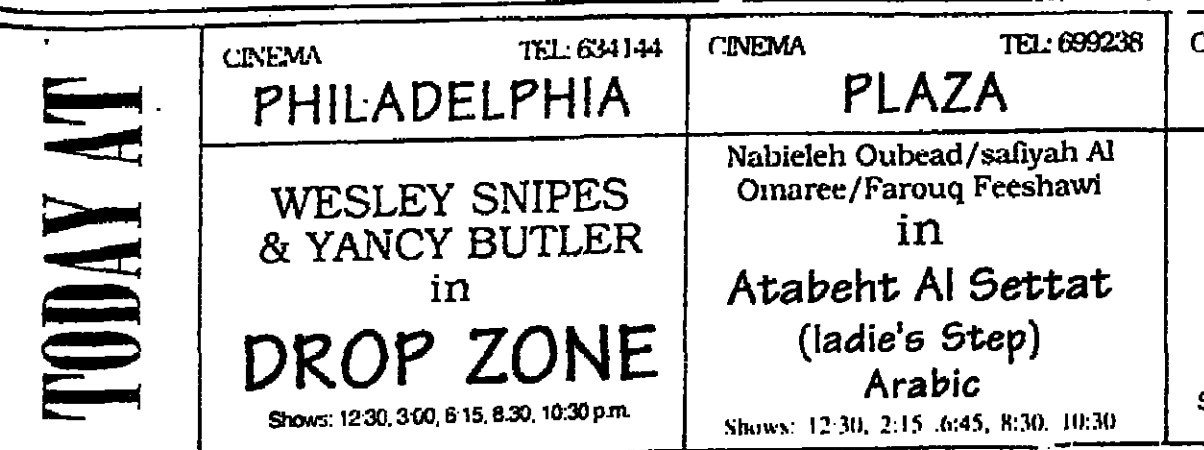
South Korea's Byun Jong-Moon edged two Japanese in men's super giant slalom skiing, and Kazakhstan swept all three medals in the men's 20-kilometre biathlon.

In speedskating, Watanabe won the men's 5,000-metre race in 7 minutes, 3.99 seconds as the five fastest skaters all beat the old Asian mark of 7:10.58 set in 1991 by Japan's Kazuhiro Sato.

Skating in Harbin's brand new indoor rink, the top eight men all broke the games record of 7:16.98 set by Sato in the last games in 1990. But all were well behind the world mark of 6:34.96.

Japan's Daigo Miyaki won the silver medal in 7:05.83 and Kazakhstan's Evueni Sanarov took the bronze in 7:06.21.

The 27-year-old Prokacheva finished the women's 3,000 metres nearly three seconds ahead of 16-year-old Eriko Seo of Japan, winning by 4:25.98 to 4:28.84.



Tony Rominger (right) and Miguel Indurain during a stage in the Tour de France (file photo)

## Title chaser Rominger fractures rib

MILAN (R) — Swiss Tony Rominger, desperate to win his first Tour de France before bowing out of cycling, fractured a rib in training on Monday, but doctors said he should be back in the saddle within days.

Rominger, 34, was last year's Giro d'Italia victory but has set his sights on the Tour, and maybe even another one-hour record to crown his 10-year career.

The accident happened as Rominger, who races for the Mapei-GB team, was training with Axel Merckx, son of Belgian tour legend Eddy Merckx. Rominger, racing behind, was caught up when Merckx's chain slipped and he fell.

Rominger came off in turn and smashed into the handlebars, fracturing a rib. Doctors strapped up his torso and ordered three to four days of strict rest but said he should be able to resume training after that.

The Swiss rider said last month he was hoping to go out on a high — with a Tour title and another one-hour record.

For many seasons the only rider who could give Spanish powerhouse Miguel Indurain a run for his money, Rominger has watched his tour dreams evaporate with disappointing regularity.

Indurain bulldozed him into second place in 1993 and he had to abandon the 1994 tour with crippling stomach problems. Last year, suffering the after effects of the giro, he limped home eighth.

But Rominger, whose one-hour record is the prize

Indurain has not been able to seize from him, said he knew the tour could be his. "I know I can win the Tour de France, I showed it in 1993," he said last month.

Rominger has won 106 races as a professional, including the Tour of Spain in 1992, 1993 and 1994 and last year's Giro.

He looks likely to skip the 1996 Giro, which starts on May 15, with the blessing of his Italo-Belgian team and sponsors since it ends just 20 days before what looks set to be a gruelling tour and could jeopardise his last victory chance.

Rominger, who has said he is planning to retire at the end of this year, wants to go out in style.

He said he would launch an attack on his own one-hour record after this year's World Championships and try to win the gold medal in the individual time trial at the Atlanta Olympics.

Rominger set a one-hour record of 53.832 km in Bordeaux in October 1994 and then increased it to 55.291 two weeks later.

Rominger is the second top rider to be injured in Italy. Italian Marco Pantani, who proved himself the best mountain climber in last year's Tour, said he was lucky to be alive after slamming into a car during a race last October in which he suffered an exposed break of his Tibia and Fibula.

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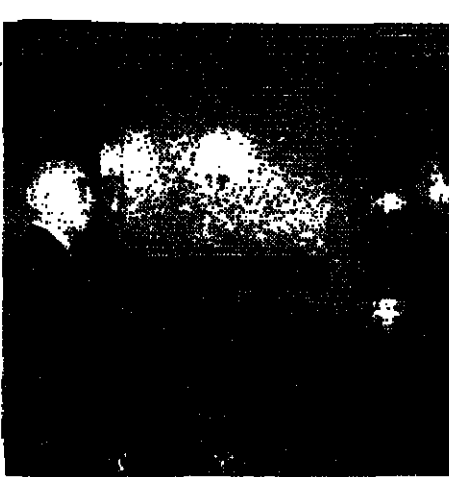
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<b>PHILADELPHIA</b>		<b>PLAZA</b>		<b>CONCORD</b>		<b>Adel Imam &amp; Yusra in Birds of Darkness (Arabic)</b>	<b>"Ahlan Tatbie" play Welcome Normalisation</b>
WESLEY SNIPES & YANCY BUTLER in <b>DROP ZONE</b>	Shows: 12:30, 3:00, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.	Nabieleh Oubead/safiyah Al Onaree/Farouq Feeshawi in <b>Atabeht Al Settat (ladies Step) Arabic</b>	Shows: 12:30, 2:15, 4:45, 8:30, 10:30	<b>CONCORD "1" WOLF</b> Shows: 12:30, 2:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 <b>CONCORD "2"</b> * Jim Carrie Shows: 2:30, 6:15		Shows: 12:30, 3, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	Shows: 8:30 p.m. For reservation call 625155





ENVOYS PRESENT CREDENTIALS: His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday received the credentials of five newly appointed ambassadors to Jordan at separate ceremonies held at the Royal Court. The five ambassadors were (left to right) Liu Bao Lai of China, Ahmet Suha Umar of Turkey, Gajanan Wakankar of India, Marilyn Wickes of Australia and Francesco Cerulli of Italy. The presentation ceremonies were attended by Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, Royal Court Chief Awn Khasawneh, His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, the King's military secretary, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid and Major-General Hmeidi Al Fayed, the King's military advisor. The ambassadors also placed wreaths at the tombs of King Abdullah Ben Hussein and King Talal Ben Abdullah (Petra photos)

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Israelis arrest Palestinian rights worker

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli security forces on the West Bank have detained a field-worker for the Palestinian human rights group Al Haq, the movement said Tuesday. Shawan Kabe Jabarin was taken from his home near Hebron before dawn on Monday by soldiers accompanied by a plainclothes officer who identified himself as an agent of Israel's internal security agency Shin Bet, Al Haq official Hanan Qatani said. The agents also confiscated material related to Al Haq's monitoring of last month's Palestinian elections, she said. Al Haq said Mr. Jabarin's wife saw him later Monday in an Israeli military compound in Hebron but was unable to speak with him. The Israeli army had no immediate comment on the allegations. Mr. Jabarin has been arrested on several occasions since the December 1987 start of the intifada against Israeli occupation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, spending a total of some 30 months in Israeli jails, Al Haq said. The organisation, which is based in the West Bank town of Ramallah, demanded that formal charges be brought against Mr. Jabarin or that he be released.

### Tehran dismisses U.S. warnings of 'threat'

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran on Tuesday dismissed as scaremongering a warning by a U.S. navy commander that its growing military machine posed a threat to Gulf shipping. "The U.S. official's statement is aimed at justifying the U.S. military presence in the Gulf and at encouraging the sale of more arms to countries in the region," Foreign Ministry spokesman Mahmoud Mohammadi said. Admiral Scott Redd, commander of the U.S. Fifth Fleet based in the Gulf, said in an interview published Sunday that Iran had tripled its air and naval presence in the region in the past 16 months. "Iran now poses a threat to navigation and aircraft flying over the Gulf," the main sea passage of world oil supplies, Adm. Redd told the United Arab Emirates daily Al Itihad. He said he had reported to the U.S. government his concern over Iran's ability to block the narrow Hormuz Straits, the only gateway to the Gulf through which nearly one-fifth of the world's oil exports pass. But Mr. Mohammadi, quoted by the Iranian press, said: "Iran wants peace and stability in the region, and kept the Hormuz Straits open under the worst conditions during the Iran-Iraq war" from 1980 to 1988.

### Russia expels Israeli diplomat

TEL AVIV (R) — Russia has ordered out an Israeli diplomat whom it accused of actions not in line with diplomatic norms, Israel's Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday. "The government of Russia requested the return (to Israel) of an Israeli diplomat serving in the Israeli embassy in Moscow," Foreign Ministry spokesman Ygal Palmor told Reuters. "In the opinion of the Russians the diplomat operated not according to acceptable diplomatic norms," he said. "He was not declared persona non grata," Mr. Palmor refused to give the name or rank of the diplomat. He said the diplomat's term in Russia was to have ended in the coming summer. He gave no other details.

### Arafat wants 1,200 fighters to move to Gaza

BEIRUT (R) — The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) wants to move 1,200 Palestinian fighters from Lebanon to self-rule areas, Palestinian President Yasser Arafat said in remarks published on Tuesday. "God willing, we will agree with our brothers in Lebanon on the transfer of part of our military brothers from South Lebanon," Mr. Arafat told the London-based Lebanese daily Al Hayat. "Until now, Israel has agreed on the transfer of 300, and we have presented 1,200 names," Mr. Arafat replied when asked how many fighters would move to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Mr. Arafat's main guerrilla faction Fatah has the largest guerrilla following in 12 refugee camps in Lebanon.

### Fundraisers apologise for using Amir photo

TEL AVIV (AFP) — U.S. fundraisers for Israel's Bar Ilan University apologised in parliament Tuesday for using a picture of Yigal Amir, confessed assassin of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, in a brochure for the school. "We wish to apologise for the pain and embarrassment we have caused to Bar Ilan University (...) to all the citizens of Israel and to Jews throughout the world," Jane Stern Lebell and Melvin Stein said in a statement read before the Knesset education committee. The two, leaders of the American Friends of Bar Ilan, took responsibility for publication of Amir's picture in a brochure handed out late last month at a New York City fundraising dinner.

### Two feared dead in Finnish blast

LAHTI, Finland (R) — A 20-year-old man was killed and a second person feared dead when a blast from a suspected bomb ripped through apartments in this southwest Finland town on Tuesday, police said. Police knew of only one death but thought it "highly likely" two people may have died in the blast, which shattered the apartment block's windows and blew away the wall of the dead man's first floor apartment. "The damage in the apartment is such that it is not possible to assess whether there are one or more victims," a police spokesman said at the town. 100 kilometres north of Helsinki. Police said they suspected "Quite a large amount of explosives" had been used in the blast.

### Lebanese army fires at Israeli warplanes

BEIRUT (AFP) — Lebanese army troops opened fire at Israeli warplanes flying low over the capital, without hitting their targets, military officials said Tuesday. The troops fired anti-aircraft guns from Baabda, near the defence ministry and overlooking Beirut, on Monday night. Lebanese security services, meanwhile, said the number of anti-Israeli attacks in the south of the country during January was the lowest monthly total for more than a year. There were no Israeli casualties in the 50 attacks on an Israeli-occupied border zone, compared to a monthly average of 85 attacks last year. The numbers have fallen since Israel and Syria, the main power-broker in Lebanon, resumed U.S.-brokered peace talks in December. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher was Tuesday in Damascus on his latest peace mission.

## PLO decides to draw up a new charter as compromise

AL ARISH, Egypt (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) decided Tuesday to draw up a new Palestinian charter rather than meet Israel's demands to amend its 1968 covenant and drop calls for the destruction of the Jewish state.

The new charter will be based on the creation of an independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital at the same time as recognising Israel, spokesman Yasser Abed Rabbo said at the end of a two-day meeting of the PLO Executive Committee.

"We discussed drawing up a new charter in the light of the new political realities rather than support Israel's demands," Abed Rabbo said.

"This new charter will be based on the creation of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital, an Israeli withdrawal from all of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the dismantling of (Jewish) settlements and the demarcation of the borders" between Israel and a future Palestinian state, he added.

Israel has threatened to halt the peace process if the PLO did not scrap articles referring to the destruction of

the Jewish state in the existing Palestinian charter.

Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Eli Dayan on Sunday turned down the idea of a new charter.

"Israel's stand is that (President Yasser) Arafat must revoke the relevant articles referring to the destruction of Israel and not simply write a new charter," he said.

But some PLO members at the meeting in Egypt's Sinai desert town of Al Arish argued that the organisation should not give in to the Israeli demands without securing anything in return.

A PLO official suggested the Palestinian National Council (PNC) would meet within two months, and another official said the PLO intended to keep its pledge.

Mr. Arafat promised during the Israel-PLO peace talks that he would amend the PLO charter by spring. Israel has threatened to halt troop pullbacks and delay negotiations in May on a final peace settlement unless Mr. Arafat follows through with the promise.

"We discussed that we have pledges concerning the covenant and we are going to fulfill these pledges," Mahmoud Abbas, a committee member, said after the

meeting.

The committee members met for a second time Tuesday. After the first meeting ended earlier in the morning, officials said they did not expect to set a date for the PNC meeting until after Ramadan, which ends Feb. 20.

Mr. Abed Rabbo, the Palestinian information minister, suggested the meeting would take place within two months.

To amend the charter, Mr. Arafat needs a two-thirds vote of the council, which must be convened by the Executive Committee.

Just 11 of the executive committee's 18 members arrived in Al Arish, a seaside city in Egypt's Sinai peninsula, for the meeting. Five committee members have resigned to protest the peace talks with Israel, one was sick, and Farouk Kaddoumi, who serves as the Palestinians' foreign minister, did not attend.

The committee, which meets whenever Mr. Arafat convenes it, has been overshadowed by the Palestinian leadership in the West Bank and Gaza. But many of its members are prominent, and

(Continued on page 7)

## Bahrain tightens security at electricity installations

MANAMA (AFP) — Bahraini authorities have stepped up security around electrical installations after 88 of them were attacked in a wave of political unrest, the Gulf Daily News reported on Tuesday.

Rioters this year have destroyed eight sub-stations each costing 10,000 dinars (\$37,000) and each serving up to 200 people, the English-language daily said. Eighty other installations were also damaged.

Electricity and Water Minister Abdullah Juma told the paper that rioters also set fire to street-lighting units, damaged poles, overhead lines and electric conductors.

It took three days to repair major damage and minor damage was fixed the same day, he said.

"We are protecting sub-stations in some areas by erecting concrete blocks and steel doors," the minister said. There are a total of 2,000 sub-stations in Bahrain.

The worst political violence since Bahrain became independent in 1971 broke out after the arrest on December 5, 1994 of a Shiite cleric who demanded the restoration of parliament which was suspended in 1975.

At least 13 people were killed in clashes between

mainly Shiite protesters and the Sunni-led authorities from December 1994 to April 1995.

Bahrain on Tuesday accused Qatar's semi-official newspapers of distorting the facts about the unrest.

Reports and comments in Al Watan, Al Rayah and other newspapers "are distorted facts," Bahrain's minister of cabinet affairs and information, Mohammad Al Mutawa, said.

Such coverage upsets Bahrainis and is "harmful to the special relationship between the brotherly peoples of Qatar and Bahrain," Mr. Mutawa said in a statement. "I am fully confident that the Qatari people are not supporting such (media) campaigns," he said, adding that Bahrain would not engage in "media rows at the present time."

Al Watan last week called on the Bahraini authorities to release political prisoners to restore confidence in the trouble-hit Gulf island state.

Relations between Qatar and Bahrain, already strained by a territorial dispute, soured further last month when the Qatari media carried interviews with Bahraini Shiite Muslim opposition leaders living in exile in Britain, who condemned "repression" in their country.

## Algerian press lambasts curb on reporting unrest

ALGIERS (AFP) — Independent newspapers in Algeria, gripped by an insurrection by armed Islamic extremists, on Tuesday denounced an order by authorities that they abide by government orders in reporting "terrorism."

Al Watan charged it was "a return to press blackout," while Liberty carried the headline: "Silence over the massacres."

Referring to the date of presidential elections, Al Khabar claimed the order was "the return to the situation before Nov. 16."

"The press is strongly invited to be reserved," added the Tribune.

"Publications are obliged to stick to laconic statements for the official agency APS, which report the number of terrorists struck down by security forces, but, drawing a curtain on the thousands of deaths, the civilian assassinations and the spectacular operations of armed groups, which are nonetheless difficult to hide," wrote the Tribune.

An Arabic language daily Al Khabar summed up the feeling with a front-page caricature, based on the three wise monkeys and portraying a journalist with his ears muffled.

fled, his hand in front of his mouth, and a banner over his eyes with the words "Algerian journalist."

In a statement in Paris, international organisation Reporters Sans Frontiers (RSF) also condemned the Ministry of Interior's "censure" on information linked to Islamic groups.

It called on President Liamine Zeroual to lift the "measures hindering the right to information" and "in particular" the ministerial decree of June 1994 concerning the treatment of "security" information.

RSF added that, since the enforcement of the 1994 decree, at least 19 newspapers have been suspended or suspended, and 50 journalists have been assassinated in killings attributed to armed Islamic groups.

On Monday, the Algerian government told newspapers to obey a decree stipulating that the information they publish on its battle with Islamic fundamentalist rebels must come from government sources.

In a statement issued to newspaper publishers, the Interior Ministry warned that violations of this rule will be met with "strict application of the law." It did not elaborate.

## Serbs suspend all contacts with Bosnia in prisoner row

BELGRADE (Agencies) — Bosnian Serb leaders said on Tuesday they had suspended contacts with Muslim-Croat authorities and would no longer attend meetings on federation territory until captured Serb officers were released.

"We have decided to stop negotiations and not to go to the Muslim part any longer until we get the... Serbs released," Dragan Bozanic, "information minister" for the Bosnian Serbs, said by telephone from Pale, outside Sarajevo.

Separatist Serb leaders announced the decision after the Muslim-led government revealed it had arrested two Serb army officers and several other men for investigations of war crimes.

Mr. Bozanic said Bosnian Serb representatives would no longer travel to the government-held city centre for talks on Dayton peace accord and demanded future meetings be held on "neutral" ground.

He called on the NATO-led peace Implementation Force (IFOR) to secure the release of the men, who include General Djordje Djukic and Colonel Aleksa Krstanovic.

The Serbs say the two men

were seized on their way to talks with NATO commanders and their arrest represented a gross violation of the Dayton deal.

The Serb news agency, SRNA accused the IFOR of "not reacting to warnings by the Serb republic that the incorrect attitude of the Muslim authorities... risked endangering implementation of the Bosnia peace accord."

Under the Dayton accords for Bosnia, the country is split between a Croat-Muslim federation and a Serb republic, with a weak central government for the overall republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

IFOR and the Bosnian government have only spoken of eight detainees, the men having been arrested in three separate incidents in government controlled territory between Jan. 20 and Feb. 2.

Three of the Serb soldiers are to be released but five others, including the general and colonel, will remain in custody, Bosnia state security chief Bakir Alispahic said.

Gen. Djukic, Col. Krstanovic and their driver Radenko Todorovic were arrested on Jan. 30 when Bosnian police went on alert on a tip-off that they were on

government territory. "We have evidence that these persons were involved in war crimes against civilians, even in the Sarajevo area," Mr. Alispahic said.

Gen. Djukic and Col. Krstanovic will be investigated by Bosnian judicial authorities and investigators from the Hague-based International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICT), Mr. Alispahic said.

Under the Dayton peace agreement, the factions can arrest war-crime suspects but charges must be submitted to the ICT for approval.

Mr. Alispahic said the driver and two other soldiers would be released "soon."

The two, Mico Dosenovic and Milan Bogunovic, were in fact witnesses to the investigations of the five that will be kept in custody and would "very soon," the security chief said.

Another group of three soldiers of the Bosnian Serb army were arrested after police at a routine traffic control found in their vehicle "guns, hand-grenades and significant amounts of ammunition," Mr. Alispahic added.

## COLUMN

### Joan Collins, Random House face off in court

NEW YORK (R) — A courtroom battle began Monday pitting actress Joan Collins against publishing giant Random House, which is demanding a \$1.2 million refund for a manuscript it said was unfinished and unpublished. Random House is suing Collins, 62, to recover the \$1.2 million she got on a two-book contract that the company claims she breached. Collins, the British actress best known for playing the scheming Alexis Carrington on the popular television series Dynasty, is fighting back. She has counter-sued for \$3.6 million she claims the publishing house still owes her. According to court papers, Random House editor Joni Evans decided Collins' manuscript was incomplete, needed a major overhaul and required a lot of rewriting. But Collins' lawyer, Kenneth David Burrows, said under the 1990 book deal negotiated by the late Hollywood superagent Irving "Swifty" Lazar, the actress was guaranteed the money even if the book was rejected by the publisher. Collins said she delivered two and a third usable manuscripts and an outline on time, according to court papers. Lawyers for both sides said they planned to call publishing experts to testify as to what constitutes a completed manuscript. Jury selection began Monday in state Supreme Court in Manhattan. Collins, who arrived in New York from London over the weekend, was expected to appear once the six-member panel is chosen. Her sister is best-selling novelist Jackie Collins.

### Dozens of S. Koreans collapse in public bath

SEOUL (AFP) — More than 50 people collapsed in a public bath and were admitted to hospitals in the southern South Korean port city of Pusan after complaining of a pungent odor from the bath water, police said Tuesday. Some 52 men and women taking separate hot tub baths in the Chungba Public Baths around noon Sunday, passed out when the water suddenly acquired a "strange and strong" odor, Pusan Prefectural police quoted the victims as saying. Police were testing samples of the water to ascertain the cause, a police spokesman told AFP, adding that "accidental or intentional" chemical leakage was highly possible. All of the victims, who were hospitalised for one or two days, have returned home, the police said.

### Bamboo shortage hits Beijing pandas

BEIJING (AFP) — Beijing Zoo's 14 giant pandas are seriously ill because of insufficient supplies of bamboo shoots, the Xinhua News Agency reported Monday. A panda eats an average of 10 kilograms (22 pounds) of fresh bamboo shoots daily and the zoo can only supply 1.5 kilograms (3.3 pounds) per animal, the agency added. Farmers in Jiangzhou in Henan province have traditionally grown bamboo for the Beijing pandas, but they now turning to more profitable crops, the report said. Bamboo is also increasingly used as scaffolding on construction sites, it added. Zoo keepers have been forced to feed the pandas beef, eggs, milk, apples and carrots. The dietary changes have caused digestive disorders, diarrhoea, weight loss and lowered the pandas' resistance to disease, it said.

## Netanyahu recognises 'facts' -- but not Arafat

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel's right-wing opposition leader, lagging badly in the polls with elections approaching, has said that as prime minister he would not try to undo Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza.

In a bid to soften his hard-line image, Likud party head Benjamin Netanyahu conceded that the current government's agreement with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) have "created facts on the ground."

"I can't ignore reality," Mr. Netanyahu said during a 90-minute interview on Israel's Channel 2 TV seen as the opening salvo in the opposition leader's campaign. If elected, he said, "we will work within the reality. We will not change what exists."

At the same time, Mr. Netanyahu would not agree

to meetings with Yasser Arafat, who led the Palestinians towards recognition of Israel and shared the 1994 Nobel Peace Prize with Israel's leaders.

"I will not meet with Yasser Arafat," he said, comparing the Palestinian leader to Kurt Waldheim, who was snubbed by Israel as Austria's president because of revelations about his activities with the German army during World War II.

When pressed, Mr. Netanyahu said representatives of his government could meet with Mr. Arafat and other Palestinian leaders, but only they did more to convince him they no longer seek Israel's elimination and acted more forcefully against militants.

"As prime minister I will make sure my government has contacts with the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) on condition they

prove to us they have abandoned their intention to destroy Israel," he said.

Pressed to explain how he would maintain contact with the PNA while refusing to meet its head, Mr. Netanyahu said:

"I won't meet that man but representatives of the government of Israel will meet representatives of the authority. We will assign the appropriate level. This is totally acceptable."

Mr. Netanyahu was asked about a 1993 sex scandal in which Mr. Netanyahu went on television to say he had an extra-marital affair and was being blackmailed for it.

"I think that was an unfortunate incident that is over now. I regret the incident itself because it deeply hurt what is dear to me, my relations with my wife, my family. I have deep regrets."

Mr. Netanyahu took centre stage on Monday after cut-

ting a deal between his hard-line Likud and the ultra-nationalist Tsomet party to field a joint list of parliamentary candidates in elections.

Tsomet leader Rafael "Raf" Eitan — a former army chief who once publicly compared Arabs to cockroaches — agreed to drop his plan to run for prime minister in return for the number two position on the Likud-Tsomet list.

Mr. Peres told reporters he did not feel threatened by the new force.

"Labour has a (peace) plan. This merger might have brought two (parties) together but it did not create a plan. Voters will have to choose between Labour's plan and the luck of a plan which is the Likud's speciality," he said.

Mr. Netanyahu said a future Likud government would shut down PLO offices in Jerusalem and repel any

Palestinian demand to expand their autonomous zones or upgrade them to full statehood.

"They (the Palestinians) will run their own lives," he said. "But we must not allow this entity to approach the dimensions of a state."

Mr. Netanyahu told Channel 2 that he could achieve peace with the Palestinians and other Arabs while sticking to hardline positions.

"I have experience in talks with the Arabs," said Mr. Netanyahu, who has served as Israel's United Nations ambassador and deputy foreign minister. "The Arabs adjust their expectations to what they believe they can get... they're very realistic, they'll adjust themselves."

That goes for Syria, too. Mr. Netanyahu said. "I will remain on the Golan Heights... all of the Golan Heights."